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Grosse Pointe News

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GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

GPPSS down one student

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — According to information from the Michigan Department of Education, the Grosse Pointe Public School System is down one student from the October count day to the February count day.

“According to our mobility report, we lost 54 students since the fall count day,” Deputy Superintendent Roy Bishop told the GPPSS Board of Education at its meeting Monday, Feb. 24. “During that same time, we gained 53 students.”

Fall count days represent 10 percent of a district’s per-pupil state aid, while the previous school year’s spring count day makes up 90 percent of state funding.

Of the students who left the district, 18 chose

either another conventional public school district or a charter public school. Another 13 moved out of state, with seven choosing homeschooling and four going to private schools.

Bishop said there were a few smaller categories, including a student death, and possibly some who were expelled from the district.

“We need to do a better job of finding out why people are leaving us, because we’re a pretty great district,” Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said.

She added the district budgeted to be down 100 students compared to last fiscal year, but is only down 40.

“The numbers for this year are kind of flat, but financially we are up 60 from last year’s budget,”

See ONE, page 9A



Capt. Tom Martindale addresses officers’ friends and family at The War Memorial Wednesday, Feb. 26, beside Public Safety Director John Alcorn.

City PS names first captain in 60-plus years

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Capt. Tom Martindale does the job the way it’s meant to be done.

So much so that his approach to policing has been dubbed “the Martindale method” and last week earned him a promotion from lieutenant to captain — the only officer in the City to hold the rank in at least six decades.

“Tom exemplifies all the qualities you want to see from an officer,” Public Safety Director John Alcorn said. “He’s kind, he’s brave, he treats people with respect and I’m honored that he’s going to be our first captain in well over 60

years.”

The position, which places Martindale at second in command, will heavily focus on providing training and support for the next generation of supervisors coming up through the department following several retirements in the last year.

“They’re a very young department, so it’s more important now than ever

just to make sure they’re all getting the training from somebody who does the job at an expert level,” Alcorn said.

Martindale has 30 years of law enforcement experience and was promoted to lieutenant in 2020 — the same year he was named officer of the year.

See CAPTAIN, page 3A

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See Section C

Housing is part of Mack plan

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Higher-density housing is on the long-term wish list of the Mack Avenue Corridor improvement study.

The latest draft of the study cites Grosse Pointe Farms’ master plan, which advocates higher-density housing on its section of the corridor. It’s a concept Grosse Pointe Park representatives share for their city’s portion of Mack.

“We’ve had discussions all the way up to the mayor’s office in Detroit about the possibility of creating an overlay district along Mack Avenue,” said Shane Reeside, Farms manager. “The idea would be to come up with design standards that are more consistent and appropriate for the area.”

“We are a built-out com-

See MACK, page 2A

Gazebo differs from donor’s intent

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The gazebo at Patterson Park looks nothing like the structure its benefactor proposed, nor are ideas for its transformation into a revenue-producing venue faithful to its intended purpose.

The idea of a gazebo, a gift to the city from the estate of architect Leonard B. Willeke, was presented to the city council in March 1984, as a memorial complete with \$65,000 for construction.

“From accessing property records, the original intent of the Willeke gazebo was for residents and visitors to see the waters of Lake St. Clair from its location,” said Nick Sizeland, city man-

ager.

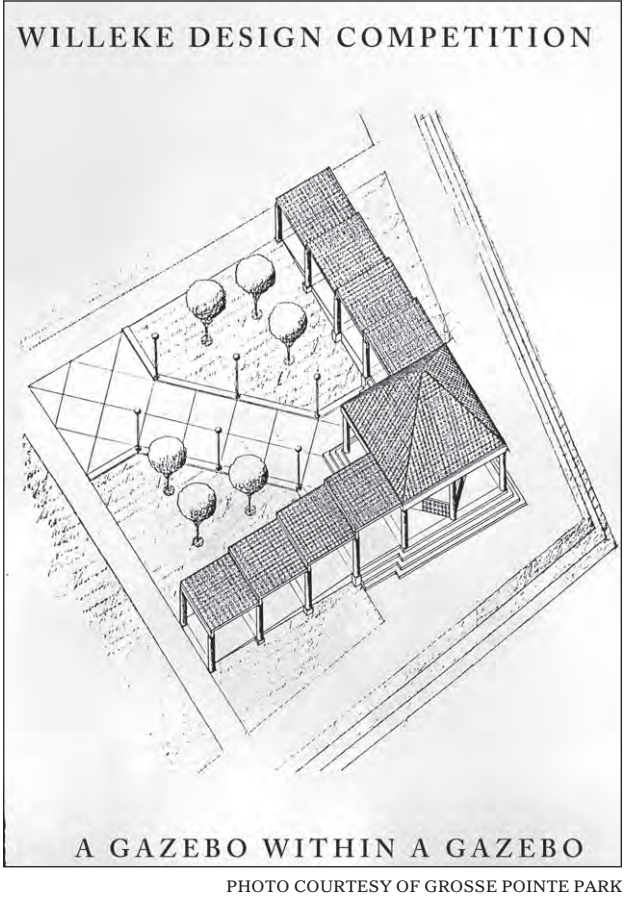
Site plans show the structure within steps of Patterson Park’s east corner.

Designed by the winner of a University of Michigan School of Architecture student competition, first prize being \$3,000, the gazebo was proposed as a square, open structure within a structure standing atop a four-tiered step. Four attached and covered structures extend straight out from the main structure’s right and left sides.

The design is reminiscent of an English manor house with the central section balanced between wings of equal dimensions slanting out from either side.

Instead of the gazebo

See GAZEBO, page 4A



The gazebo donated for construction at Patterson Park was originally pitched as an unconventional “gazebo within a gazebo” intended to provide “a place of privacy and refuge while affording a fine view” of Lake St. Clair.

Week Ahead	3A
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Features	1B
Obituaries	6B
Sports	1D
Classified ads	4D

Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Gruhith Yerramalli

Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
All-State tennis player receives
MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award.



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Can't give a pass on water rate increase

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Proceeds from the city's infrastructure millage can't be used as a bulwark against higher water-sewer rates.

"The millage can only be used for capital infrastructure projects," said Nick Sizeland, city manager. "Nothing else. It is basically to lay pipe and line pipe."

He said the city's reaction to the Great Lakes Water Authority's

impending rate increases is likely to be the topic of a special meeting of the council or infrastructure committee at a date to be determined.

Authority board members announced Feb. 26, a 5.9 percent increase in drinking water fees and a 4.5 percent increase in wastewater processing costs.

GLWA processes and sells drinking water to 112 southeast Michigan communities. Customers include the Grosse Pointes except the Farms

and City, which use the Farms filtration plant on Moross between Lakeshore and Grosse Pointe Boulevard.

GLWA provides wastewater services to 78 communities in the region, including all the Pointes.

"Originally, the increase was proposed to be about 7.5 percent," Sizeland said.

New rates begin with the 2026 fiscal year starting July 1.

"These new rates are going to have to be passed on," Sizeland

said. "This is a tough conversation to have, but we expect water sewer rates to increase, not only because of GLWA, but we have fixed costs that are going up. Our overhead and pension costs and general day-to-day operating costs are going up, too."

"This is the first year that GLWA's budget will exceed 4 percent," according to a GLWA news release. "Despite this increase, GLWA's nine-year average charge increase continues to be

well below 4 percent (2.7 percent for water and 1.6 percent for wastewater)." Park officials have been forecasting municipal rate increases for a couple of years.

In 2020, the council retained Baker Tilly, a municipal financial consultant, to come up with a new rate structure to, in part, meet an unfunded state mandate to replace lead service lines.

Work on the rate structure was shifted to Bendzinski & Co., a bond agent and municipal

finance consultant based in the City of Grosse Pointe, when the city's contact at Baker Tilly gained new employment at Bendzinski.

During the recent municipal audit presentation in January, the water and sewer fund showed an operating loss due to expenses exceeding revenue by \$609,354.

"The data suggests your rates are likely too low and will need to be increased," auditor Ali Barnes told the council at the time.

Grooming case extends to Pointes

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The city was the location last month of an alleged sexual assault by an adult man from Berkley against an underage Park girl, 15.

"Without getting into too many specifics, I think this is a case where the victim and predator know each other," Park Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman said.

The suspect has been charged with a similar offense in Berkley.

"I think this is a case of an older person grooming and taking advantage of young, vulnerable people," Pittman said.

Park police and county prosecutors will only outline the case until presenting details in open court later this month.

"More complete facts and evidence will be placed on the record at the preliminary examina-

tion," according to a Feb. 26 news release from Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy.

"Once he's tried and convicted through our court system, I'll probably have a lot more I can say about it," Pittman said.

The preliminary hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday, March 10, in Park Municipal Court, Judge Carl Jarboe presiding.

Jarboe arraigned the suspect, Darren Joshua

Bradford, 24, of Berkley, Feb. 26 on two counts of third degree criminal sexual conduct.

"Our bond was set at \$250,000," Pittman said. "He is currently lodged at the Wayne County Jail. We have information that there are possibly more victims coming forward in Berkley, not Grosse Pointe Park."

"On Feb. 26, 2025, at approximately 5 p.m., in the area of Windmill Pointe Drive and

Berkshire Road in Grosse Pointe Park, it is alleged that the defendant sexually assaulted the victim in his vehicle," according to Worthy's release.

The age of consent in Michigan is 16 years old.

"We arrested him at his home," Pittman said. "He happened to be out on bond for a Berkley case. He was arrested in Berkley and got out on \$175,000 bond. The day after he got out on bond, we secured our charges and rearrested him."

The case originated in Berkley.

"Berkley (police) interviewed a victim who insinuated that an incident may have occurred in Grosse Pointe Park," Pittman said. "They sent her over here. We followed up with her, her family and Berkley PD the next day and determined there was probable cause a crime occurred here. Working in conjunction with Berkely police, a safe house in Oakland County and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, we secured a warrant for the same suspect in the Berkley case."

MACK:

Continued from page 1A

munity, so we have to be creative in adding population density," Park Manager Nick Sizeland said.

"If the corridor is enhanced, everybody in the corridor benefits,"

said Joe Valentine, City of Grosse Pointe manager. "Whether that's the cities or county, everybody's going to benefit when the entire corridor is brought up to a higher level. It helps with economic development. There are a lot of factors that play in when you have a viable, vibrant corridor."

The multijurisdictional study taps representatives from the Park, City, Farms, Detroit government and community organizations, Wayne County and more for ways to enhance and unify both sides of Mack from Alter in Detroit to Moross in the Farms.

Current funding is from

a \$1 million grant. If current plans work out, there might be grants of up to \$13 million available, according to Ocie Irons, director of economic development for the Eastside Community Network in Detroit.

Sizeland said there are multiple aspects to corridor improvement.

"The first intent is streetscape beautification — traffic mobility and pedestrian crossings with an emphasis on safety," he said. "In the Park's new zoning code, we allow areas on Mack to be built up and add living space."

"Whether it's mixed use, purely residential or commercial, all of that is allowed on Mack due to the new zoning district," said Warren Rothe, Park assistant manager and planning commission secretary.

"We have a concept we're working from," Valentine said. "From that, we're working on design elements. Once we get design elements moving forward with the funding we have, that will lend itself to more design elements. If we get the bigger money, we can look at physical changes that are needed because those are going to cost more."

Short-term improvements are along the lines of more bus stops, bus stop benches, street trees, updated signage, trash receptacles, areas of permeable surfaces instead of concrete slabs, installing crosswalk bump outs and wrought iron light fixtures.

"The vision is for businesses that bring density and that are planned in a way that slows traffic,"

Irons said. "There would be a consistent look and feel for that entire segment. For that to work, there should be an organization that includes businesses and residents that have some stake along that stretch."

"The first portion of the implementation plan is to determine where along the corridor investment will provide the greatest return to residents," according to the draft, a product of OHM Advisors and Spaulding DeDecker engineering and design consultants.

By that standard, the area most in need is lower Mack from Detroit through the Park to Cadieux in the City. The need for improvement declines from there. The section of Mack through the Farms has least priority, according to the study.

Incremental improvements, such as light pole banners, corridor branding signs, sidewalk and street light upgrades, landscaping, street furnishings, bicycle racks and bus stops are intended to lead to long-term fine-tuning of the roadway.

Those include crosswalk bump outs that, as in The Village shopping district of the City, shorten the crossing distance between sidewalks and set a framework for on-street parking.

More ambitious roadwork on lower Mack leads to reduced lanes, a bike lane, landscaped mid-block crossing islands and reduced on-street parking. The last idea is counter to Park officials' repeated desire for more parking in commercial districts.

"Larger street redesign recommendations are the lowest priority at (this) time," according to the draft. "These street designs are going to be the most expensive to implement and will require a longer lead time to complete the final design. It is recommended that the cities focus on implementing the previous set of improvements while coordinating a larger and more intense street redesign."

Achieving Your Weight Loss Goals



By Steven Hendrick, M.D.

Weight loss is often a goal that people want to accomplish. While the journey may feel overwhelming, it doesn't have to be. With the right resources and support, achieving your weight loss goals is entirely possible.

Non-surgical weight loss options can be highly effective for many individuals. These may include personalized plans focusing on nutrition, exercise, and behavior changes, as well as medical treatments such as FDA-approved weight loss medications. These tools are designed to complement your efforts and address individual challenges, offering a comprehensive approach to healthier living.

For those considering surgical weight loss, options such as gastric bypass, sleeve gastrectomy, or other bariatric procedures may provide long-term solutions for individuals struggling with severe obesity or weight-related health conditions. These surgeries can significantly reduce the risk of diseases like diabetes and heart disease while improving quality of life. Surgical eligibility is determined by factors such as Body Mass Index (BMI) and medical history:

- A BMI of 40 or greater.
- A BMI of 35-39.9 with at least one weight-related health condition (e.g., high blood pressure, diabetes).
- A BMI of 30-34.9 if you have Type 2 diabetes.

The Weight Control Center and Bariatric and General Surgery Clinic in Saint Clair Shores welcomes anyone seeking guidance and support in achieving their health goals. Regardless of the method you choose, our team is here to provide expertise and encouragement every step of the way. Your path to a healthier you starts here.

Dr. Steven Hendrick is a Board-Certified general surgeon specializing in bariatric, robotic and minimally invasive surgery, who has been performing bariatric surgery for over 20 years. He operates at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, located at 468 Cadieux Road in Grosse Pointe. His clinic is located at 25631 Little Mack Avenue in St. Clair Shores, (586) 443-2998.



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CAPTAIN:

Continued from page 1A

“My first day as sergeant, I was the only supervisor working here,” he said of how departmental support during transitions into supervisory positions has left something to be desired. “... These young guys, we can’t just throw them out there. We want them to succeed.”

That said, the department subscribes to a stringent process to achieve sergeant and lieutenant promotions, which encompass a test, oral board, seniority points and supervisor reviews.

Candidates have three months from the date the exam is announced to study approximately 2,400 pages split between various books on law, fire, etc., and from which the test pulls random questions.

“The process owns your soul the entire time,” Martindale said of the intensity and commitment required. “You can’t do anything. On your days off, you’re studying eight to 10 hours a day if you want to be the best.”

A promotional cere-



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Lt. Chris Saunder’s wife, Danielle, and son, Christopher, pin his badge.

mony held at The War Memorial Wednesday, Feb. 26, kicked off with Martindale’s ascent to captain, before honoring the efforts of Sgt. Chris Saunders, who was promoted to lieutenant, as well as officers Joshua Ina and Steve Mukavec, who were promoted to sergeant.

Saunders, who has been with the department since 2016, was officer of the year in 2021, and serves as an accident investigator, field training officer, vir-

tual training instructor, Crisis Intervention Team officer and firearms instructor.

Last week, he achieved the second fastest promotion to lieutenant in department history.

“Chris could write a book on how to get promoted,” Alcorn said. “Chris was so dialed in to the material for the exam, after the test was over, I spoke with him and asked how it went. This is immediately after the test. He said, ‘I think it went well. I think I got

at least a 97.’ That’s exactly what he got.”

Of the candidates for sergeant, the top three finished the written exam within three points of each other, Alcorn noted.

Ina joined the department about a decade ago and serves as a firearms instructor for both pistol and rifle. He also was a member of the Eastern Wayne County Special Response Team for five years.

“Josh is an excellent officer who executes all aspects of the job with professionalism and knowledge,” a supervisory review noted. “He steps up and volunteers for details and handles incidents with respect and kindness.

“... Josh is an asset on the fire ground with his experience and willingness to do the hard work needed during a fire. His experience on the SWAT team, calm demeanor and professionalism will make him a great addition to any shift and make him a great supervisor.”

Among those in the audience were the sergeant’s first supporters in life.

“I would like to thank

my parents,” Ina said. “They’ve greatly helped shape the person I’ve become today. I just want to thank you for everything you’ve done and the sacrifices you’ve made.”

Mukavec joined the department in 2021, after a 20-year career in Harper Woods.

He is a field training officer, member of the Crisis Intervention Team and now holds the title of the second fastest promotion to sergeant in department history.

“Steve has extensive experience from his time in Detroit and as a supervisor in Harper Woods,” his supervisory review stated. “He is the consummate professional police officer. He per-

forms the job safely with expertise gained from years of service.

“Steve takes the lead during incidents, handling all situations with tact and consideration for all involved. He is respected by all members of the department and he will represent the department well as a supervisor.”

Prior to being pinned with their new badges, Mayor Shelia Tomkowiak took a moment to congratulate and thank the officers.

“You’ve all demonstrated strong leadership and outstanding service that not only meets the expectations of this community, but exceeds them,” she said. “And I say that sincerely.”



Sgt. Josh Ina’s significant other, Heather Durand, pins his badge.



City Clerk/Assistant City Manager Chris Hardenbrook swears in Sgt. Steve Mukavec.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, MARCH 10

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Finance Committee meeting, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Facilities Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Policy Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Citizens’ Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Beautification Advisory Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Historical Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Shooter ices coyote

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Emotions are thick and facts are thin about a coyote iced off Patterson Park.

Sources consist of investigators who were unable to account for claims someone shot the animal dead last week and at least two social media clairvoyants claiming to know what’s in the minds of investigators.

Also unconfirmed in the he-said-she-said world of wild animals encroaching on civilization is if the dead coyote had been living under the boardwalk at Patterson Park.

“Someone at Parks and Rec saw a coyote come out from under the boardwalk,” City Manager Nick Sizeland said. “Two years ago, too, someone spooked a coyote and it ran out.”

Nor is it known if the predator’s presence in the Park was induced by someone breaking a state Department of Natural Resources rule against feeding wild animals.

What is known is that whomever shot the coyote Sunday, Feb. 23, broke the law.

“We have a city ordinance: You cannot shoot a firearm within Grosse Pointe Park

unless you’re protecting your life or the life of somebody else,” Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman said.

On the other hand, hunting waterfowl on Lake St. Clair off the Pointes is legal if done from a boat 450 feet from an occupied building.

The coyote was in the sights of a shooter on land, according to unconfirmed reports.

“Apparently there’s a guy on Windmill Pointe who likes to watch coyotes that cross the ice,” Sizeland said. “He claims he heard a gunshot. We sent a sergeant out there, but not on the ice because it’s dangerous.”

“People said they saw a coyote on the ice,” Pittman said. “They heard a gunshot. Officers went out and looked, but couldn’t see anything.”

“(An officer) looked with binoculars but didn’t see anything,” Sizeland said.

“We’re not going out on the ice looking for a coyote carcass,” Pittman said. “Maybe somebody’s taking shots at coyotes, but we don’t know where the shots came from.”

“This wasn’t an act of a true hunter,” someone wrote on the internet.

See COYOTE, page 5A

Correction

A photo on page A3 of the Feb. 20 edition of the Grosse Pointe News should have said John Vitale was honored for 30 years on the Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission.

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North’s Yerramalli honored with MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award

By Mike Adzima
Staff Writer

People often hope their biggest passions will one day lead to bigger and better things. Grosse Pointe North senior Gruhith Yerramalli is no different when it comes to his passion for tennis, which has helped him become a Class A recipient of the 2025 MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award.

“I actually didn’t know about the award until two or three weeks before the deadline,” Yerramalli said. “I thought I might as well give it a shot. ... I felt good writing the essays because tennis is something that I’m really passionate about, so when I was writing the essays, the ideas just kept coming off the top of my head. ... When I found out I had won, I was excited and thought it was a great opportunity for me.”

Every year, the MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award is presented to 32 varsity athletes from around Michigan. Awardees must have a grade-point average of at least 3.5 and exemplify certain qualities, such as the importance



Gruhith Yerramalli

of sportsmanship and a passion for school and community activities. Yerramalli has been with North’s varsity boys tennis team since he was a freshman and recently served as a team captain during his senior season in the fall. During the season, Yerramalli was part of North’s No. 1 doubles pair along with teammate Louis Macres. The pair were regional champions and named All-State in Division 2 by the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association.

The added responsibility of being a captain his senior season was another thing Yerramalli channeled in his essay. He knows leadership is a quality that is going to be invaluable as he

heads to college and beyond; helping his teammates buy in to the program’s goals was a great way to gain that experience.

“You have to make sure that everyone is putting in effort and doing what they’re supposed to do at practice,” Yerramalli said, “getting the team to be together and be more connected and have that team spirit.”

Yerramalli seems destined to be a leader no matter where life takes him next. He has not decided where he will attend college, but has narrowed down his list to a few top options. Those include the University of Michigan and the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, both of which are ranked among the top 10 public universities in the country by U.S. News & World Report. He plans to study aerospace engineering and possibly business as well.

“I’ve really been fascinated with planes and transportation since I was young,” Yerramalli said. “I have cousins who work in aerospace, so I’ve thought I’d like to do that as well. ... I

also would like to do business as a minor or a double major.”

It may sound like a challenge, but challenges are what Yerramalli has grown to love. There are countless things Yerrmalli has learned both on the tennis court and in the classroom at North that he knows he will carry with him into the next phase of his life. Through tennis he has learned how to stand up to any challenge, no matter how tough things may seem.

“Tennis has taught me a lot about discipline and resilience and building character,” he said. “Sometimes, you’re not happy with your performance or you just play really bad sometimes. Tennis is like that. You have some good days and some bad days when you play. ... You can’t let the bad times get to you and break your confidence down. That’s happened to me sometimes when I don’t play up to my expectations. Over the years, it’s a learning process of making sure that every time you miss a shot or lose a game, you don’t let that get through into your mind.”



COURTESY PHOTOS

Yerramalli has been a four-year varsity tennis player at North and was named All-State in doubles by the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association in 2024.

GAZEBO:

Continued from page 1A

being surrounded by grass, a rendering of the original design shows it fronted by a landscaped

plaza and wide pathway illuminated by six post lights.

The designer charac-

terized it as a gazebo within a gazebo:

“The larger gazebo serves as a trellis of heavy wood members crossing each other in an open pattern of squares. In the future, the trellis will be covered with trained vines. Within its volume lies a smaller gazebo rotated to create a more open space at each entry point. The contained gazebo provides a place of privacy and refuge while affording a fine view.”

The gazebo that eventually was built is a more traditional structure without wings or plaza.

“From what I gathered from information available to me, because I wasn’t born at the time, it seems as if the

city meets the original intent,” Sizeland said. “However, comparing the design that was shown to what is there now, I assume (the revised, simpler design) was based on cost at the time.”

Proposals to integrate the gazebo into the municipal revenue stream by renting it as a wedding and concert venue are beyond the donor’s intent.

“What I’ve enjoyed from talking about this process and seeing the recreation commission discuss items like this is trying to understand the intent of the gazebo and how we envision it now, and what we are going to do with it in the future,” Sizeland said. “There are many opportunities we can look at.

There are many great ideas. At the end of the day, it comes down to budget. That’s something we have to be very mindful of, as we have many other assets within the community for which we have to figure out how to pay for.”

Sizeland learned of the gazebo’s history while sifting through old city files.

“I was looking under ‘G’ and found the Willeke gazebo,” he said.

Members of the Park council in 1984 liked the design, but gave it some thought.

“The city is not committed to this design,” according to minutes of the meeting. “After discussion of the plans submitted, it was determined that further detailed constructions would be submitted and a study committee formed.”

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City of Grosse Pointe

Mercedes

A \$47,000 2022 Mercedes Benz fraudulently was purchased from a Maryland dealership in a Grosse Pointer’s name Monday, Feb. 24.

Lululemon

A \$28 black True Identity Card Case was stolen from Lululemon in The Village at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24.

The suspect — a thin black man in his 20s — left in a white Hyundai Kona.

Concert tickets

A Grosse Pointe woman transferred \$350 via Zelle to a seller on Facebook Marketplace offering concert tickets Monday, Feb. 24, but did not receive the tickets in return.

Jury duty

A scammer posing as a Wayne County sheriff’s deputy called a Grosse Pointe woman at 1:45 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, in an attempt to get her to pay \$8,000 in fees for missing jury duty.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

As the police report noted, “She wisely did not pay.”

— Laurel Kraus
Report information about these and other crimes to the City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety, (313) 886-3200.

Grosse Pointe Park

Warrant arrests

The road patrol took custody of a couple of drivers last week for being wanted on outstanding warrants.

Both incidents stemmed from traffic infractions.

The first, at 2:44 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, happened on Jefferson near Park Lane. An officer stopped a 35-year-old Harper Woods woman for speeding. She was wanted in the city for unspecified charges.

The second, shortly before 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 28, took place at the intersection of

Kercheval and Alter. A 20-year-old Detroit man was investigated for operating a motor vehicle with defective equipment. Police arrested him on an unspecified warrant from Grosse Pointe Shores.

— Brad Lindberg
Report information about this and other crime to the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department, (313) 822-7400.

Grosse Pointe Farms

DWLS

A 33-year-old Roseville man was cited for driving while license suspended and with an expired license plate when pulled over at Mack and Ashley at 2:31 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Flat

After being pulled over near McMillan and Charlevoix for driving

with a flat tire at 1:42 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, a 26-year-old Detroit man was cited for driving while license revoked, not having vehicle insurance and an expired registration.

Speeding

For speeding 43 mph on Mack at 8:18 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, a 31-year-old Detroit woman was pulled over and given citations for no vehicle insurance, an expired license plate and the speeding violation.

Disorderly

For causing a disturbance at a restaurant in the 18000 block of Mack and refusing to leave at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 1, a 32-year-old Detroit man was arrested.

He threatened violence against officers and said he would have to be beaten to a pulp to have his fingerprints taken.

He was cited for trespassing, disorderly per-

son and refusal to submit to fingerprinting.

Intoxicated

For speeding 46 mph on Mack at 9:32 p.m. Saturday, March 1, a 64-year-old St. Clair Shores woman was pulled over and found to be intoxicated.

A preliminary breath test found her blood alcohol content to be 0.17 percent, for which she was arrested.

— Laurel Kraus
Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety, (313) 885-2100.

Grosse Pointe Woods

No forced entry

The vehicle’s radio and the owner’s laptop were stolen sometime between 11 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, and 2:45 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, in the 19000 block of Linville.

The owner said the vehicle was locked but there was no sign of forced entry.

Stolen vehicle

A 2015 Jeep was stolen from the driveway of a house in the 2100 block of Anita sometime overnight into Saturday, March 1. The owner did not remember if it was locked.

Officers followed an AirTag to Detroit and recovered some items from the vehicle, but not the Jeep itself.

—Ted O’Neil
Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

—Ted O’Neil
Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Neff station pump repair

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — A 32-year-old sanitary pump at the Neff Road Pump Station will need to be taken apart to determine the extent of the repair needed to fix an overheating issue.

Pump No. 5 handles day-to-day sanitary sewage on a rotational basis with two other pumps, which allows the city the leeway to send it for repairs that may take around six weeks.

City council, Monday, Feb. 10, unanimously approved a pricepoint up

to \$25,000 to contract with Detroit Pump & Manufacturing Co. for the repair.

If the issue can be solved by new bearings and packing, it should cost the city only \$15,585.

If extensive work such as casting parts or machining is needed, a complete rebuild of Pump 5 shouldn’t exceed the \$25,000.

“You still have the housing of the pump,” Public Services Director

See NEFF, page 8A

COYOTE:

Continued from page 3A

“The police could investigate, but probably don’t want to.”

A photo accompanying a post shows what appears to be a circular pattern of splattered blood on the ice with a red trail kind of zigzagging to what is clearly a dead coyote.

“You are right,” responded another poster. “The police didn’t want to take action. I know that coyotes are considered to be a nuisance, but this animal was laying down

pretty far from shore and was killed for no reason.”

A recreation department employee said coyote sightings at Patterson Park, home to the municipal dog park, are nothing new.

“I don’t know where he’s living,” said the employee last week. “He visits here periodically. Residents have seen him.”

Neither is it rare to hear reports of coyotes killing family pets.

“Coyotes killed at least one dog last week in Grosse Pointe Woods and sightings of the wild animals have

increased recently, causing concern for parents and pet owners,” according to an Aug. 29, 2024, account in the Grosse Pointe News.

A fuzzy photograph taken at dusk last week and posted on social

media reports to be of a coyote running in the area of Essex and Grand Marais. The location is a short distance from the entrance to Patterson.

“Keep a close eye on your pets,” the poster wrote.



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Ridge defendant pleads guilty ahead of trial

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The Grosse Pointe juvenile charged with second-degree homicide in connection with the Ridge Road single-car crash that killed passenger and fellow Grosse Pointer, Flynn MacKrell, in 2023, gave up his right to trial last week.

The 17-year-old defendant — 16 years old at the time of the crash — pleaded guilty Friday, Feb. 28, to manslaughter with a motor vehicle in exchange for lowering the charge from second-degree homicide.

Within the plea, he admitted to driving more than 100 mph on Ridge around 9 p.m. Nov. 17, 2023, and that he was aware driving in such a way could cause death or great bodily harm.

“I find there is sufficient basis to allow me to accept this plea and move forward in this matter,” Judge Michael McClory said, adding no sentence agreement has been

made.

Vehicular manslaughter carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison.

The defendant has been adult-designated, meaning there is an option of a blended juvenile and adult sentence.

A sentence hearing is scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday, June 6, at the Wayne County Criminal Justice Center.

“At that sentencing hearing, we’re going to be taking what are called victim impact statements and I look very much forward to hearing the statements from the victims,” McClory said. “The court is going to look very closely at the information they provide and their statements in terms of making the ultimate decision as to what the sentencing’s going to be in this case.”

Prior to the plea, a jury trial was scheduled to begin Monday, March 3.

— Laurel Kraus



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Through March 31

In 2024, The Helm delivered 29,065 meals - up 39% since 2022 - to homebound Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe residents unable to safely prepare meals for themselves. Food costs are up as well. Your donation makes a difference.

Every \$7 donated provides one meal.



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The Helm 2024 March for Meals is in partnership with Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

POINTS OF VIEW

GROSSE POINTE WOODS / GROSSE POINTE SHORES / GROSSE POINTE PARK / GROSSE POINTE FARMS

Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW
Release
the reason

Now that we have had time to fully digest the 74-page report of human resources complaints against former Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education member Ahmed Ismail, we are left with more questions than answers.

Just to refresh everyone’s memory, the board voted 4-2 last month, against the advice of its attorney, to release the full report after a nearly hour-long closed session with the district’s counsel, Mark McNerney, and attorney Kevin Sutton of the law firm Miller Johnson, who conducted the investigation.

Voting in favor of waiving attorney-client privilege was President Colleen Worden, Trustee Clint Derringer, Vice President Laura Hull and Treasurer Tim Klepp. Trustee Sean Cotton, who owns the Grosse Pointe News, and Trustee Ginny Jeup voted no, citing the advice of McNerney and potential liability for the district. Secretary Valarie St. John was absent.

The report was given to the HR complainants, Kate Murray and Michelle Davis, former Grosse Pointe North High School principal and athletic director, respectively, the night of Feb. 10, and was posted to the district’s website Feb. 12.

Mr. McNerney in February 2024, shortly after the report was finished, also advised the board not to waive attorney-client privilege due to liability concerns. Ms. Worden and Ms. St. John at the time voted in favor of releasing the report to board members, with Mr. Cotton, Ms. Jeup and former board members Lisa Papas and Terry Collins voting no. Mr. Ismail recused himself from that vote.

Mr. Ismail, who chose not to run for re-election last year, made a motion at the board’s meeting last December to give the report to board members.

“I want the board to know what’s in it,” he said of his motion. “I’ve been maligned. I’ve been slammed in public without a chance to defend myself.”

It passed 7-0.
In what is being called the “Sutton Report,” Ms. Davis filed her complaint Aug. 27, 2023, with Ms. Murray filing hers a day later. Both made claims that Mr. Ismail was trying to “push them out,” that he engaged in retaliatory behavior and that his actions were due to gender harassment.

The first question, of course, is why the investigation was conducted in the first place. It was predicated on district policy 5.02, which states:

“The district shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or sexual identity), age, religion, height, weight, martial or family status, disability, military status, genetic information, or any other legally protected category in its programs and activities, including employment. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination, and shall likewise not be permitted with respect to students or employees. The district shall not retaliate against a person who reports or opposes improper discrimination or retaliation. The district shall fully comply with all applicable federal and state civil rights statutes.”

First off, board of education members are not employees of the district. Michigan law prohibits board members from being district employees. They are considered members of a governing body that sets policy and makes decisions, but do not work directly on district operations.

Furthermore, on page 17, the report states: “The genesis of the complaints in this matter was someone telling complainants that Mr. Ismail allegedly



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEAH MANNINO

Pure
Grosse
Pointe

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Leah Mannino captured quite a serene scene along Lakeshore last week, reminding us that while winter still plans to rear its chilly head, there are signs of life on the horizon.

told someone else that he wanted to ‘push out’ complainants from the district or some derivation of such a comment indicating that complainants’ employment with the district may be in jeopardy. The fear that the alleged threat may be true prompted the complaints, which do not cite a specific board policy but contained phrases such as ‘gender bias,’ ‘retaliation,’ ‘harassment,’ while expressly tying such perceived actions to the fact that the two employees who are the subject of the alleged comments are female.”

In fact, in a footnote to the above paragraph, the investigator wrote: “Indeed, the complainants’ complaints offer, in their own words, theories other than gender bias or discrimination for the actions of Mr. Ismail and the board.”

Just so we are clear here, we have an investigation based on a policy that did not apply to the situation and claims of gender bias the complainants themselves refuted.

The laughable part is the investigator found Mr. Ismail made statements that he wanted to “push out” the former administrators on what Mr. Sutton wrote was a “he said — he said situation without a definitive answer.”

Mr. Ismail allegedly made the comment to a district employee who was considering employment in another district. Mr. Ismail has said previously he encouraged the person to stay, noting the opportunity for advancement because there were several employees approaching retirement age, including Ms. Murray and Ms. Davis.

That person, known in the report as “Witness #5,” apparently texted another person Mr. Sutton interviewed regarding Mr. Ismail’s alleged comments, along with allegations Mr. Ismail made a racial comment regarding Deputy Superintendent Roy Bishop.

Mr. Sutton wrote the texts “add credibility” to claims Mr. Ismail made the comments and the texts were “confirmed as authentic by both staff members involved in the exchange.”

- Following that logic:
- ◆ Person A tells Person B: “I’m going to the bank,”
 - ◆ Person B texts Person C: “Person A said they are going to rob a bank,”
 - ◆ Investigator: “Persons B and C verified the texts, so Person A must have said it.”

Equally troubling, Witness #5 said he had a meeting with Mr. Ismail and Mr. Cotton where they allegedly said they had “big plans for him,” and the meeting made him “very uncomfortable.”

Mr. Cotton denies such a meeting ever took place, writing in response to an email that he

posted on social media: “His claim that we had a conversation in my office about ‘big plans’ for him is a complete fabrication. He requested to meet with me about securing a scoreboard for South. We discussed it, and I directed him to the STEAM Foundation. That was the entirety of our conversation.”

The foundation in February 2024 announced a \$403,000 donation for a new, interactive scoreboard for the Grosse Pointe South High School football field.

Next question. Did Frank Sumbera retire or was he fired? That’s kind of like asking who is buried in Grant’s tomb. Everyone knows he was forced out, even the people once in charge who kept insisting he retired.

The complaints came the same week the board received a letter from Dan Griesbaum Sr., baseball coach at South, requesting some type of formal recognition to honor Mr. Sumbera, who coached baseball and football at North for 49 years and is in the coaching hall of fame for both sports, which had the support of Mr. Ismail.

It was co-signed by Gary Bennett, North boys basketball coach; Tim Brandon, former South football coach; Russ Hepner, former South football coach; Chad Hepner, South football coach; Steve Zaranek, South cross country/track coach; Gary Spicer, attorney; and Bill Babcock, former North baseball player.

In an addendum to her complaint, Ms. Davis said she “terminated” Mr. Sumbera in June 2018, at the direction of then-Superintendent Gary Niehaus.

A letter to North baseball and football families that same month, however, signed by Ms. Murray, said, “Dear baseball and football parents and players, today, we received notice of the retirement of Grosse Pointe North High School head baseball and head football coach Frank Sumbera, effective June 29, 2018.”

Mr. Niehaus, speaking at the board meeting July 23, 2018, said the district was “willing to plan a retirement celebration” for Sumbera.

Mr. Sumbera in February 2024, told the Grosse Pointe News he was asked to attend a meeting June 27, 2018, thinking it was to discuss budget matters. Ms. Murray and Ms. Davis were in the meeting, along with Nicole Pilgrim, then the district’s human resources director.

See VIEW, page 7A

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Ellie Carter

GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST						
March 6 – 12						
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
41° 29°	44° 28°	41° 27°	42° 28°	50° 38°	60° 49°	63° 40°
Chance of Rain/Snow Snow	Mostly Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Windy	Windy
60%	60%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%
SUNRISE 6:58 am	SUNRISE 6:57 am	SUNRISE 6:55 am	SUNRISE 6:53 am	SUNRISE 7:52 am	SUNRISE 7:50 am	SUNRISE 7:48 am
SUNSET 6:28 pm	SUNSET 6:29 pm	SUNSET 6:30 pm	SUNSET 7:31 pm	SUNSET 7:32 pm	SUNSET 7:33 pm	SUNSET 7:34 pm

Weather data courtesy of Channel 4, WDIV Detroit • ClickOnDetroit.com

LETTERS

The Grosse Pointe News welcomes letters to the editor. All letters should be typed and signed with the writer’s full name and local address, as well as a daytime telephone number for verification or questions. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length. All letters may be edited for content. We reserve the right to refuse any letter. The deadline for letters is 3 p.m. Monday. Letters may be submitted via email to editor@grossepointenews.com or by filling out the letters form on our website, grossepointenews.com.

I SAY By Anne Gryzenia



Coyotes: The great debate

Coyotes (Canis latrans) have become a hot topic of debate in our community. Some see them as majestic, intelligent animals that play an important role in

keeping rodent and pest populations in check. Others view them as a growing threat — especially when small pets start disappearing from backyards. Coyotes are highly adaptable and thrive in nearly every environment, from dense forests to urban neighborhoods. In fact, their population has expanded significantly over the last century,

with estimates suggesting there are several million coyotes across North America, including a growing presence in Michigan. As natural predators, they help control populations of rodents, raccoons and skunks, and even take care of carcasses. However, their adaptability also means they are comfortable living near humans — sometimes leading to con-

flict. That brings us to the recent, bloody Facebook photos of a coyote shot on the ice. The reaction was swift, with some calling it barbaric and others defending the act. Michigan law allows coyotes to be hunted year-round with a license and property owners may shoot them without a permit if they pose a threat to livestock or pets. However,

most city ordinances prohibit firing a gun within residential areas, making urban coyote control a tricky subject. What I find interesting is that the person responsible for the shooting didn't come forward. Did they fear legal consequences? Public backlash? If they believed the shooting was justified, why stay silent? Coyotes aren't going

anywhere and this debate isn't new. Some argue for coexistence — securing trash bins, keeping pets inside at night and using deterrents like motion lights. Others believe population control is necessary to prevent conflicts. Where do you stand? Should we learn to live alongside these wild canines or is stricter management needed? Sound off via direct message on our social media pages or email media@grossepointe-news.com

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1950

75 years ago this week

FISHING IS GOOD BUT PRODUCT IS POOR: Ice fishermen have been having a field day hauling bucketfuls of a comparatively strange fish from the shore waters of Lake St. Clair. Old timers identify the fish as gizzard shad, which frequent these waters in droves occasionally. They are third-rate fish as far as eating qualities go. Norbert Neff recalls hearing that the original French and Belgian farmers of this area, who always planted a fish in each hill of corn, rated the gizzard shad so low they wouldn't even consider it as good fertilizer.

ALL POINTE SCHOOLS TO STAY OPEN WITH COAL BINS: Grosse Pointe's public schools are not escaping the effects of the coal strike, but there is no present indication that it will be necessary to completely close any of the buildings or halt any study sessions. Seven of the public school buildings use coal, the newest structures being heated by oil. The coal-burning buildings are the high school, Richard, Mason, Vernier, Old Kerby, Defer and Trombly. Using oil are Maire, Pierce Junior High, Parcels and New Kerby.

ASK POINTERS TO SHARE COAL: In the absence of any organizational setup in Grosse Pointe to meet the coal crisis, it has been agreed

between Norbert P. Neff, City Clerk, and a few other public officials, and George Elworthy, Director of the Neighborhood Club, that Mr. Elworthy will accept tenders of emergency coal available from the private bins of Grosse Pointe residents. This would be registered in a coal pool from which residents who are unable to get coal otherwise will get emergency relief of small quantities.

1975

50 years ago this week

CHANGE IN GPW BATHHOUSE PLANS TO SAVE \$33,250: The Woods council unanimously approved a major change in the construc-

tion of the new bathhouse to be included in the proposed \$1,622,000 improvement at the city's Lake Front Park, located in St. Clair Shores, which would pare \$33,250 from the agreed contract price. The saving would be realized through the installation of asphalt-shingle, rather than a metal roofing, as originally proposed.

MUST REPAIR PARKING LOT: The Farms Council found affirmatively that the parking lot behind a group of stores at Mack Avenue and Moross Road creates a nuisance situation and gave the owners of the lot until June 15 to make improvements. The meeting was the second public hearing held to discuss the condition on the parking lot. Residents from Moross, Hillcrest and Kerby roads have voiced numerous complaints about chuckholes, litter and the general disrepair of the lot.

2000

25 years ago this week

LAKE ST. CLAIR DOWN 4 FEET SINCE '86 HIGH: Short of a rain dance, there's little anyone can do to reverse declining water levels in Lake St. Clair. Like the hydrological equivalent of a bear market, the lake has fallen from its mod-

ern high set nearly 15 years ago. The bellwether came in April 1999 when Lake St. Clair dropped below its long-term average. The lake is nearly four feet below its 1986 all-time high of 576.77 feet above sea level.

PARENTS SCRAMBLE TO FIND SPECIAL ED SUMMER CAMPS: With the Grosse Pointe Public School System's special education summer recreational and social program scrapped for this summer, parents are scrambling to find a replacement program for their special needs kids. Members of SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Committee) met with program facilitators from the community to find out what programs are available and what programs could be developed.

GP NEWS EARNS TOP AWARDS IN EDITORIAL CONTEST: The Grosse Pointe News is pleased to announce it earned four top awards in the Suburban Newspapers of America's 1999 Editorial Contest. The News was awarded first place for Best Editorial Writing; Assistant and Features Editor Margie Smith took second place in Best Column Writing; Phil Hands earned second place for Best Editorial Page Cartoon and Staff Writer Brad Lindberg was recognized in the Best Breaking News Story category with a second-place award.

2015

10 years ago this week

FISHER DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT SET: The mayor has a soft spot for the Fisher commercial district between Maumee and St. Paul. Mayor Dale Scrace, the city council and city manager agreed this week to propose a new and inviting streetscape on Fisher, the smallest of three commercial zones in the City of Grosse Pointe. Construction will correspond with replacement either this year or next of water main under the Fisher sidewalk, plus a property owner's anticipated redevelopment of commercial structures on the block.

COURTS JOINING NETWORK: It's been 33 years since MTV debuted with "Video Killed the Radio Star" and launched a new wave of multi-media entertainment. This month, a similar technological evolution comes to a Grosse Pointe municipal court near you. Two-way cameras and monitor screens are being installed in the courts to allow long-distance video arraignments of suspects held in county jails. Video technology reduces the likelihood of Pointe public safety officers leaving their beats to shuttle suspects between county jails and municipal hearings.

VIEW:

Continued from page 6A

He said he was given until 3 p.m. that day to resign, but he refused to sign the paperwork. He also was told a folder, which he described as "thin," contained complaints against him regarding verbal and physical abuse of players, although he was not allowed to read the alleged complaints. The district continued to insist Mr. Sumbera had given a "verbal" retirement.

Remember that advice Mr. McInerney gave the board about how releasing the report could open the district up to liability?

Mr. Sutton further said Mr. Ismail's "comments ... and/or associated actions" were in response to the situation. One witness interviewed for the report said efforts to name the North fields after Mr. Sumbera was giving "the middle finger" to Ms. Murray and Ms. Davis.

"Based on the evidence collected, it would be hard — if not impossible — to dismiss the termination of Mr. Sumbera as a significant moment in the employment trajectory of both complainants. While Mr. Sumbera's termination

likely did not color every action which followed it, the perception of complainants was undoubtedly impacted, even if they both continued to maintain their employment with the district."

Ultimately, the report itself on page 17 sums up why the investigation should not have proceeded:

"Complainants raise a myriad of concerns that are outside the scope of this investigation because they are based on local politics, historic racism, perceived sexism, employment decisions, board budgetary battles, chronicles of affluence and power, or socio-economic imbalance, rather than the discrete issues identified by the investigator as rooted in the written complaints submitted. Indeed, much of the time spent interviewing complainants focused on those same issues, concerns, and grievances noted above; though none of which were the actual basis for the initial complaints. However, because those concerns are primarily political and historical rather than directly connected to the gravamen of this complaint, they are noted here to acknowledge their existence and to provide context to the conclusions herein."

Again, more questions than answers.



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Marina report is late

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A report detailing the structural layout and integrity of the municipal marina is behind schedule.

Findings must be completed prior to drafting construction specifications for marina renovations at Windmill Pointe Park.

The city’s design contractor, Abonmarche, a nationally known firm based in Benton Harbor, was supposed to submit the report to Park officials either by the end of 2024 or January, according to various members of the recreation commission and administration. Commissioners oversee marina planning and operations funded by boat slip rentals.

“I followed up (and) they apologized for the delay,” said Chad Craig, director of parks and recreation.

The lag gave Commissioner Christina

Buchanan an opportunity this month to propose expanding renovations.

She said the marina entrance to Lake St. Clair needs more than renovation. It needs to be completely rebuilt.

“It’s falling apart,” Buchanan said during a commission meeting Feb. 12. “It’s hard to navigate.”

“My guess is that would (cost) around \$500,000,” Craig said.

His estimate dwarfs the marina fund’s \$75,000 reserves.

In May 2021, consulting engineers at the firm of Hubbell, Roth & Clark judged the marina in poor condition. They also rated it functionally obsolete for the needs of larger, wider craft typical of modern-day boats.

A top-tier modernization would cost \$10 million to \$15 million, they said, which Park officials rejected as lofty.

The following year, the city contracted marina

specialists at Abonmarche to redesign the facility without frills. The response, reported at the time, consisted of:

- ◆ widening boat slips on Pier 1, which forms the marina’s eastern, outer breakwall and main walkway, from the current 8½ feet to 10 feet, resulting in the elimination of 12 wells;
- ◆ replacing dockside electrical and water lines and outlets on all five piers,
- ◆ raising the marina’s inner wall to better protect the mainland against flooding during high lake levels and
- ◆ making structural improvements as needed, including those revealed by divers.

Wells in Piers 2, 3, 4, and 5 are to remain configured as of now.

The first of two mutually exclusive underwater surveys of the marina revealed pier underpinnings to be in surprisingly good shape.

A second survey to pinpoint the location of sub-

merged support structures was delayed due to excessive growth of marine vegetation, which is why the latest report hasn’t been finished and delivered to city hall.

“We’re at the stage where they will propose a buildable design?” Recreation Chairman Mike Hindelang asked Craig.

“Yes,” he answered. “We should be pretty

close. Part of that’s going to be with the structural survey and seeing results on how many pilings we have, if any additional need to be had.”

“This is kind of an intermediate step before we get to a (buildable) plan?” Hindelang asked.

“Yes,” Craig said, adding, “We’ll have the structural survey draft within the next week or two to review. A joint permit application is underway.”

Abonmarche’s designers haven’t been commissioned to redesign the entrance.

“It’s crumbling,”

Buchanan said. “If that could be rebuilt now, you’re not spending good money after bad. It would be part of (overall renovations). It’s getting worse every year.”

“It’s worth talking about,” Hindelang said.

“That should be pitched to the company,” said Commissioner Michael Bannon, elected Feb. 3 as vice chairman. “Is there anything that precludes doing it?”

“The cost difference — if we’re doing it all at once versus piecing it going forward,” Hindelang said.

Pump station upkeep

GROSSE POINTE PARK — While the city invests in new water-sewer system infrastructure, it also continues maintaining facilities that have been in place for years.

Among recent work is cleaning wet wells at the Jefferson Avenue and Three Mile pumping stations.

Wet wells are underground tanks that store sewage prior to it being pumped away.

“As part of the city’s regular maintenance programs, the wet wells are cleaned,” according to Tom Jenny, director of

public works.

Members of the city council in January voted unanimously to assign the work to Blue Water Environmental at a cost of \$58,411.

Cleaning crews enter the wells suspended in metal “man baskets” lowered by a crane.

“(We) will provide one 5,400-cubic-feet per minute vacuum truck to vacuum all material and rinse sides from the chamber (and) one 10,000-gallon water blaster to blast the chamber and cut up any material on the floor,”

according to Blue Water’s bid offer.

The job is expected to last six days.

Council members also approved a separate contract to repair floor drains at the Jefferson station next to city hall.

“Existing floor drain piping has been deteriorating and needs to be replaced,” Jenny said.

CSM Mechanical of Milford Township won a low-bid, \$15,820 contract for the job, which is expected to take three to five days.

— Brad Lindberg

NEFF:

Continued from page 5A

Pete Randazzo said. “That’s a huge cost, but you already have it. Once it gets repaired, you can bond it right back into its existing manifold.”

A brand new pump, he added, would be \$80,000, plus the cost of modifications to fit it for the Neff station.

Funds are available for the repairs in the city’s

water and sewer fund.

“This wasn’t budgeted ... but there is money for stuff like this when it happens,” Randazzo said, “We have \$70,000 in pump station maintenance, so when something like this does happen that’s where the money would come from.”

Though Pump No. 4 and Pump No. 5 were both installed in 1992, Pump 4 already required rebuilding nearly a

decade ago in 2016.

“The typical useful life on these pumps is about 20 years, so we’re getting more years out of them now,” Randazzo said. “Especially now that we get to alternate them, which helps out so one pump doesn’t sit there and rot and rust. Now we can alternate them to get a longer useful life on these things and a more even life with these pumps.”

— Laurel Kraus

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Foundation elects three new board members, hires admin

The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education Board of Directors announced the election of three new board members this past fall. They are Joseph Herd of Grosse Pointe Woods, Randie Kohler of Grosse Pointe Woods and Michelle Parikh of Grosse Pointe Farms.

The organization also

announced the hiring of a new administrator. Katie Stanley joined the organization in June 2024, to run the GPFPE office and administrative duties.

“We are so happy these three outstanding individuals agreed to join the GPFPE board and share with us their talents, experience and perspective, along with their

commitment to the students and teachers of the Grosse Pointe Public School System,” said Cynthia Sohn, GPFPE president. “We are also thrilled to announce the hiring of Katie Stanley as our administrator. In the short time that Katie has been with us, her enthu-

See NEW, page 9A

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CITY OF HARPER WOODS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING HARPER WOODS CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Harper Woods City Council will be holding a Public Hearing on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. located at the Municipal Building (19617 Harper Avenue, Harper Woods, Michigan, 48225) for the purpose of hearing public comment on a request from Robertson Brothers Homes to vacate a segment of Lennon street’s right of way that abuts the right of way with Harper Avenue.

The segment of property that is proposed to be vacated is further identified by the following legal description: All that part of Lennon Street, of “Harper Home-Sites Subdivision”, as recorded in Liber 53 of plats, Page 23, Wayne County Records, lying between Lots 73 and 78, and that lies westerly of a line described as follows: Beginning at a point on the northerly line of said Lot 73, said point being 22.05 feet from the northwesterly corner of Lot 73; thence northerly along the westerly line of Harper Avenue (variable width) to a point on the southerly line of said Lot 78, said point being 18.39 feet from the southwesterly corner of said Lot 78 and a Point of Ending. Containing 1213 square feet of land, more or less.

The land vacation application is available for public inspection in the City Clerk’s Office, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Residents who are unable to attend this hearing may submit their comments in writing to the City Clerk’s Office before April 7, 2025

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

POSTED: March 4, 2025
PUBLISHED: March 6, 2025

BoE gets updates on Trombly, Poupard

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The two elementary schools closed by the Grosse Pointe Public School System in 2020 — Trombly and Poupard — continue going in different directions.

Trombly is expected to get new windows after the GPPSS Board of Education voted to seek bids at its meeting Monday, Feb. 24. Poupard, on the other hand, soon will be demolished.

Superintendent Andrea Tuttle and Facilities Director Ben Matteson have said previously there are wood

window frames on the 98-year-old Trombly that are so rotted they were able to push their fingers through them.

Cost is expected to be around \$1.5 million.

Trustee Clint Derringer, chairman of the board’s Facilities Committee, said that he, Trustee Tim Klepp and Trustee Sean Cotton were in unanimous support of the idea when the committee discussed it in early February. Cotton owns the Grosse Pointe News.

“Regardless of what happens with the building, we need to keep our assets from falling apart,” Tuttle said.

The building got eight

new windows in spring 2024 after vandals broke them on the rear first floor.

Tuttle added that a survey will be sent starting May 10 to all households in the Trombly catchment area to determine how many children there are from birth to age 9 there as the district tries to determine how many students would attend if the building was reopened. Cost to reopen the building has been estimated at around \$5.8 million.

Tuttle also told the board the district signed closing documents to sell Poupard to Robertson Brothers Homes. After more than two years of

discussion, the board granted the company a 30-day extension in December to complete the deal.

Robertson Brothers now has six months to raze the building. Tuttle said the district received \$50,000, minus closing costs, and will get another \$600,000 when the building is torn down.

The district agreed to sell Poupard to Robertson Brothers in November 2022 for \$650,000. The first extension was granted in April 2023, while the developers went about securing grant funding for the project to offset construction costs.

They have received

more than \$5 million from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and other sources.

The company originally planned to build 100 attached townhomes and stacked flat units between 700 and 1,400 square feet on the 6.5-acre site. New plans call for a mix of 70 single-family homes, duplexes and townhomes between 1,200 and 1,400 square feet.

Each would be two bedrooms and two bathrooms and include a den with exterior access that could be used as a third bedroom. The company in 2023 told the board it thought it could sell each

unit for \$200,000, but it would cost \$325,000 to build each one.

In exchange for the most recent extension, Robertson Brothers made a non-refundable deposit of \$5,000 and agreed to pay the \$24,000 cost of removing any personal property, including several pianos, left in the building. The company earlier wanted GPPSS to split that cost.

“There was a verbal agreement that any contents left could go down with the building,” Tuttle told Robertson Brothers CEO and President Jim Clarke in December. “We turned off the electricity, at your request, so now the elevators don’t work.”

GPPSS names bond committee

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Nearly three dozen people have been named by the Grosse Pointe Public School System to serve on a Bond Advisory Committee as the district considers asking voters in November to extend a facilities and security bond originally approved in 2018.

“We are thrilled at how many people in the community with strong qualifications and interest applied,” GPPSS Board of Education President Colleen Worden said. “The administration and I worked together to develop a committee that represents a cross section of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods and various demographics and backgrounds, to gather innovative ideas for a bond that will gain community support to continue to invest in our schools and the advancement of educational excellence in GPPSS.”

In addition to Worden, board Treasurer Tim Klepp and Trustee Sean Cotton — who owns the Grosse Pointe News — are among the 33 committee members.

District administrators include: Superintendent Andrea Tuttle, Deputy Superintendent Roy Bishop, Grosse Pointe South High School Principal Cindy Parravano, Grosse Pointe North High School Principal Sara Delgado, Defer Elementary School Principal Lisa Rheame, South Athletic Director Andy Rishmawi, Pierce Middle School Principal Sara Dirkse, Parcels Middle School Assistant Principal Sam Lambert-McGrath, North Athletic Director Jim Ellis, Mason Elementary School Principal Anita Hassan and Director of Facilities Ben Matteson.

Community members are: Andrea Gruenwald, Rebecca Fannon, Thomas Caulfield, Andrea Doherty, Wilson Jon Moin, Mariel Krupansky, Juan D. Ruiz Jr., Joe Genest, Walt Fitzpatrick, Neil Sroka, John Arnold, Sarah Coats, Ed Lazar, Patrick Chesterton, Melissa Palepu, Bob Kruse, Tim Brumbaugh, Andrea Glynn and Kaveh Kashef.

As of now, the committee is scheduled to meet 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays, March 12, April 9 and May 21, in the North

library.

“We’re looking for people who have a vision of the district in mind, not just a singular passion or interest,” Tuttle said last month in announcing the creation of the committee. “We’re looking to have 25 to 30 people to help us decide which projects the money should be spent on.”

The committee will meet through the end of June. Moving forward, the district would need to submit language to the county clerk by Monday, Aug. 11, in order to be on the November ballot.

The \$111 million bond originally was approved by 55 percent of voters in November 2018. The district can collect up to 3.14

mills if the debt service schedule justifies that amount. A mill is \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 of a property’s taxable value.

If approved, the bond would bring in \$120 million over 20 years to use on facility upgrades. The sinking fund millage, approved by 66 percent of voters last November, will

bring in \$111 million over the next decade.

The need for the committee is because while sinking fund money can be spent on any project allowed by state law, bond money can only be used on projects laid out in the ballot language. Consultants at Plante Moran two years ago said GPPSS had \$252 million in maintenance needs over the next 10 years, including \$150 million in critical needs that should

be addressed in three years. Tuttle, who has been referring to it as “the 252 list,” said it has been updated — including details about work already completed — and is being reviewed by the administration.

Some 79 people applied to be on the committee.

“We’re so grateful to the community members and administrators for their time and passion for our schools,” Worden said.

NEW:

Continued from page 8A

siasm, creative thinking and competence have already proven invaluable to our organization. We look forward to seeing how all of these individuals help us grow and improve as an organization.”

Herd and his wife, Verlona, have five children, the youngest of whom is a current GPPSS student. Now retired, Herd served as the deputy chief of United States Probation, Eastern District of Michigan, as well as served as president of the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education.



Joseph Herd

Kohler and her husband, Mike, have two children, both current GPPSS students. She is the accounting manager for Village Green and an active community volunteer, serving as president of Red Barons Football and Cheer, as well as supporting Grosse Pointe Theatre and The Family



Randie Kohler

Center.

Parikh and her husband, Parag, have two children — one a graduate of GPPSS and one graduating this year. She is a senior R&D packaging scientist for Nestle Purina and also has spent many hours volunteering in the community. She served as a Mother’s Club



Michelle Parikh

president at Grosse Pointe South High School, as well as with other PTOs and organizations such as the Junior League of Detroit and Ribbon Farms 4-H.

The GPFPE is an independent, nonprofit organization that funds educational opportunities for the students of the



Katie Stanley

Grosse Pointe Public School System. Since 2007, it has provided close to \$4.5 million in funding, supporting programs and projects at every school and grade level across the district.

For further information, visit gpfpe.org or contact Stanley at stanlek@gpschools.org.

ONE:

Continued from page 1A

she said.

In reviewing data from the Michigan Department of Education, the Grosse Pointe News found that during the 2023-24 school year, some 283 students living in the district attended public school else-

where. Of those, 154 attended one of 30 different charter public schools, either in person or online.

The most popular choices among in-person charters were Chandler Park Academy and Discovery Creative Pathways, both in Harper Woods, where 19 Grosse Pointe students attended each school, with 11 at Oakland International Academy.

Another seven attended University Prep Schools in Detroit. For online charters, six students each attended Michigan Connections Academy, based near Lansing, Highpoint Virtual Academy, based near Traverse City and Lighthouse Connections Academy, based in Southfield.

Some 129 students attended a conventional public school dis-

trict, with the bulk of those going to Harper Woods Public Schools (61) and Detroit Public Schools (40). The rest were scattered among 17 other districts as close as Lakeview Public Schools and Lake Shore Public Schools in neighboring St. Clair Shores and as far away as Oxford Community Schools north of Troy and River Rouge and Taylor downriver.



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FEATURES

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History of animation lecture looks at classics

Former South teacher to speak March 9

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Retired teacher John Monaghan, who taught at Grosse Pointe South High School from 1992 to 2002, introduced hundreds of students to the intricacies of film history.

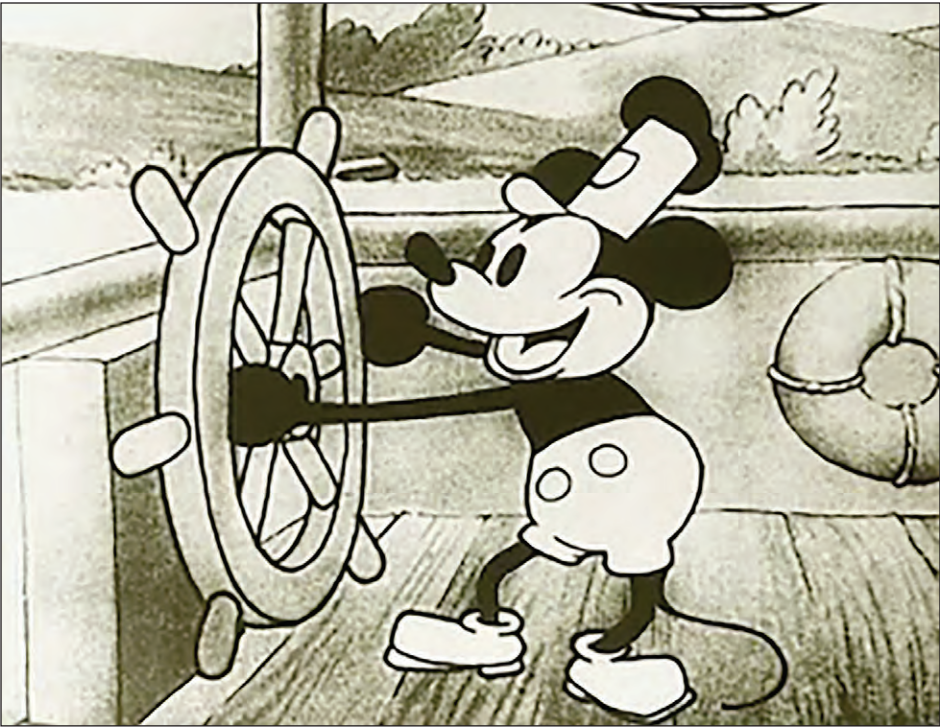
Now, he hopes to reach another audience as he presents “The History of Animation,” at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 9, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, as part of the Grosse Pointe Artists Association’s Your Old Mansion series.

“I’ve been obsessed with film my whole life,” the Grosse Pointe North grad said.

After he retired, Monaghan brought his history of animation classes to students at College for Creative Studies. This lecture, he said, will be a condensed version of that.

“I’ll focus on the earliest days of animated film, up to the pre-code era of the early ’30s,” he said.

Pre-Code Hollywood is a period in the American film industry between the widespread adoption of sound in 1929, and the



COURTESY PHOTO

Mickey Mouse’s “Steamboat Willie” will be among the animation featured in John Monaghan’s March 9 lecture.

enforcement of the Motion Picture Production Code in mid-1934.

“I’ll show clips from the earliest films that used the stop-motion technique, right up to the earliest sound cartoons,” Monaghan said. “Mickey Mouse is my jumping-off point. ‘Steamboat Willie’ was the first widely distributed cartoon film. I’ll

start with that, then go backward.

“I’m going to be analyzing the heck out of ‘Steamboat Willie,’” he continued, noting, “It just entered public domain, so it’s no longer copyrighted. You can use that version of Mickey Mouse in other art forms.”

Monaghan will show the eight-minute

“Steamboat Willie” during his presentation, as well as clips from other films.

“It will be very interactive; I never lecture,” he noted. “I want to hear what people have to bring to this, how they find animation.”

While he is well-versed in animation, the Grosse Pointe Woods native said animation is just part of

his fascination with all film, which began during his childhood.

“Since I was about 10 years old, growing up in Grosse Pointe,” he said. “In St. Clair Shores, there was Tudges Pub on Mack. ... It was a bar my parents used to take me to; they’d show movies once a week. That’s when I got interested in those silent shorts.”

He also credited some of his film education to Grosse Pointer Bill Kennedy, who hosted “Bill Kennedy at the Movies,” the long-running Detroit-based television show.

“He lived in Grosse Pointe and had a popular TV show,” Monaghan said. “He played popular movies in the afternoons, from the late ’60, ’70s and early ’80s. I played sick so I could stay home and watch.

“And the Punch and Judy Theater,” he added. “That was another part of my education. The Punch and Judy Theater showed classic films until the day it closed.”

Monaghan hasn’t limited sharing films to the classroom. He’s been showing all sorts of films around metro Detroit for years, including his favorite — film noir.

He hosts a film noir festival at the Redford Theater every year and for the last 12 years, he and pal Steve Stanchfield have hosted an annual animation festival featuring “original film prints we’ve collected,” he said.

While he considers “Citizen Kane” the greatest film of all time, followed closely by “Harold and Maude,” Monaghan will stick to cartoons for his presentation at The War Memorial. There, he’ll include clips from Max Fleischer films.

“He did the Popeye and Betty Boop cartoons in the early sound era,” Monaghan said. “I’m ending the program with those.”

He encouraged anyone interested in animation to attend the program, which is suitable for all ages.

“Kids will find this stuff fascinating,” he said. “Even things from the early 1890s is still mind-blowing. It’ll be fun, guaranteed.”

Tickets are \$30 for GPAA members, \$35 for nonmembers, and available at grossepointeartcenter.org.

The final Your Old Mansion lecture of the season is scheduled Sunday, April 6.

‘Passion for Fashion’ is March 27

Fontbonne fundraiser benefits Henry Ford St. John Children’s Hospital

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Fontbonne Auxiliary hosts its spring fundraiser, “A Passion for Fashion,” at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, 788 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

The event promises a glitzy, glamorous girls’ night out that benefits the pediatrics unit at Henry Ford St. John Children’s Hospital.

“I’m super excited to be with Camille, chairing this fashion show,” said Stephanie Berri, co-chair with Camille Cracchiolo. “We hope to have the support of the community.”

In addition to cocktails and a sit-down dinner, fashions coordinated by Cheryl Hall-Lindsey are the star of the show. Models will hit the runway wearing Just Girls, Lilly Pulitzer, The Vintage Boutique, Pearl, Saks Fifth Avenue and The Village Palm.

“We’re looking forward to a great show and



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MADELEINE PHILLIPS

Ten Capsa carts will be purchased with funds raised through “A Passion for Fashion.”

a great raffle as well,” Cracchiolo said, noting prizes include jewelry, restaurant gift cards, a spa day, wine, gift baskets and more. “There’s something for everyone.”

Added Fontbonne President Lorna Zalenski, “We have some new vendors this year who are sending us items. They’re approach-



ing us. All of our vendors are generous. Some of the new vendors, that’s what they want to do in the community — be philanthropic.”

Another new addition to this year’s event is Fontbonne’s Beauty Partner, Orlane, which will host a pop-up boutique at the event, offering touchups on makeup as well as makeup products.

While fashion is at the forefront of the show, the bigger reason for the benefit is to raise funds, which this year are earmarked for the purchase of 10 Capsa carts. The mobile medical workstations designed by Capsa Healthcare provide caregivers with easy access to patient information, medication and supplies

at the point of care. The carts feature customizable storage compartments, secure locking mechanisms and a lightweight, maneuverable design. They also are equipped with integrated mounting systems for laptops or tablets, allowing for electronic charting at the point of care.

“They’re more efficient, come with bigger screens and can be taken room to room,” Cracchiolo said. “They’re an upgrade from what they already have.”

Added Zalenski, “They’re safer for patients and easier for staff as well. Everything is included in them, so staff can stay bedside, which is imperative for all patients, but especially for children.”



Fashion expert Cheryl Hall-Lindsey will provide color commentary during the fashion show.

Tickets for “A Passion for Fashion” are \$125 per person and seating is limited, so guests are encouraged to get their tickets soon. Last year’s event sold out.

“It’s so much fun to be with your friends, family, sisters, neighbors,” Cracchiolo said. “It’s a great night out with the girls and it’s close to home.”

For more information, to purchase tickets or make a contribution, call Zalenski at (313) 590-5607 or email llz523@aol.com.

Beyond the benefit

The Fontbonne Auxiliary was established in 1947, with the purpose of raising funds to construct St. John Hospital, which broke ground in 1948 and cared

A Passion for Fashion Committee

Chairs

- ♦ Stephanie Berri
- ♦ Camille Cracchiolo

President

- ♦ Lorna Zalenski

Committee members

- ♦ Ann Marie Anton
- ♦ Mary Ellen Brayton
- ♦ Sally Cytacki
- ♦ Bonnie Jobe
- ♦ Kathleen McDonald
- ♦ Lorraine Owczarek
- ♦ Madeleine Phillips

for its first patient in 1952. The organization has since supported the hospital, now named Henry Ford St. John Hospital, through various fundraisers.

Members come from all walks of life and membership is open to all.

There are benefits to members that extend beyond supporting health care.

“I’ve been a part of this group a long time,” Zalenski said. “I just believe in the work we do — raising money to provide extra care for the hospital to benefit our

See FASHION, page 7B

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Pittman wins first-ever super award

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

The public safety department’s inaugural Supervisor of the Year award was issued last month to the officer in charge of cracking all the city’s crimes.

Recipient Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman credited the honor to the work of his investigative team, detectives Ryan Willmer and Paul Pionk, both recent award winners themselves.

“The work those guys do makes my job easy,” Pittman said. “They do an excellent job and make it a joy to come to work.”

Pittman described the working relationship with a word common to the department — team.

“We’re a team,” Pittman said. “I couldn’t do what I do without two great guys like them.”

“Jeremy’s my right-hand man,” said Chief Jim Bostock, issuing the award during the Feb. 3



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

The first-ever Grosse Pointe Park Supervisor of the Year Officer of the Year Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman.

city council meeting. “Whatever I toss his way, he gives me his best.”

“(Our officers) commit themselves to a set of standards that protect our residents and their property,” Mayor Michele Hodges said. “It’s not an easy job.”

Bostock returned from

a 10-week course last spring at the FBI National Academy enthusiastic about the importance of leadership.

“The criteria for supervisor of the year is to set high standards for supervisors to aspire to in Grosse Pointe Park,” he said.

Candidates must display leadership, management skills and contribute continuously to the success of the department and their personnel, he said.

“This person is going to inspire and motivate their team to perform at their best and they set positive examples of professionalism and accountability,” Bostock said.

Bostock considered candidates who mentored their staff’s professional growth and who work effectively with other departments and organizations.

“This commitment to interagency teamwork and cooperation allows us to be successful in our commitment to the community,” Bostock said.

He also sought candidates having the respect of employees throughout the department.

“One of the biggest compliments one can get is when you get a compliment from your peers,”

Bostock said. “Here are a couple quotes from Pittman’s peer group:

♦ “One of Sgt. Pittman’s most commendable qualities is his commitment to professional development. He’s always eager to share his extensive knowledge. His guidance has been instrumental in the growth and successes of numerous officers who now serve as valuable members of our department.”

♦ “He has successfully led numerous operations (and shown) quick decision-making under pressure. His ability to remain composed during high-stress situations has earned him respect and trust from his colleagues and supervisors.”

Pittman worked more than 10 years for the Pontiac police department before joining the Park.

“I left Pontiac in 2008, because the city had gone into receivership,” he said. “A friend of mine,

Tom Martindale, now a captain in the City of Grosse Pointe, had left Pontiac for the City. He told me there was a good opportunity in the Park. I came down, got tested, came out No. 1 and got hired.”

In Pontiac, Pittman served on the SWAT team.

“He had over 500 high-risk entries as a SWAT operator,” Bostock said.

Pittman prefers the Park’s small-town atmosphere.

“In a big city like Pontiac, you don’t really have the time to give the community your utmost attention on every case,” he said. “Here, we have more time to give residents on all their concerns, even outside of criminal cases.”

“In Pontiac, it was more assembly-line police work — move from one case to another as soon as possible because we were so overwhelmed. Here, everybody has time to not only help people regarding criminal aspects, but also whatever we can assist with. I like that part of it.”

Officer of the year sets the bar

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Teamwork is something Scott Gilchrist learned as a two-sport high school player and which he practiced to become the Grosse Pointe Park Department of Public Safety’s inaugural Officer of the Year.

“I played team sports

my whole life — hockey and baseball,” Gilchrist said. “That’s crucial for this kind of field. I think all of us (on my shift) played sports.”

They work together as a team.

“It helps achieve the goal,” Gilchrist said.

Lessons from team sports are so important to Gilchrist he intends for

his two boys to follow his athletic footsteps.

“It teaches you so much about life,” Gilchrist said.

Chief Jim Bostock said Gilchrist’s qualification for Officer of the Year set high standards for every candidate to follow.

“The officer earning this award embodies the values and commitment of the Grosse Pointe Park

Public Safety Department,” Bostock said during the Feb. 3 city council meeting. “Criteria we consider (are) outstanding service, excellence in leadership, community engagement, problem-solving abilities, professionalism and ethics, exceptional performance, teamwork and cooperation, a positive impact on the department and values that align with the department’s mission and values.”

“We support you and are in partnership with you in making sure this level of service continues,” Mayor Michele Hodges said.

Bostock chose Gilchrist with help from department supervisors.

“A number of officers were recommended for this award,” Bostock



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Grosse Pointe Park Department of Public Safety Officer of the Year Scott Gilchrist.

said. “Chris embodies the spirit I just mentioned.”

Gilcrest has been a Park public safety officer nearly eight years.

He is the department’s defensive tactics instructor, a bike officer, youth

See OFFICER, page 8B

AUDIO NEWS

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PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Detective Ryan Willmer, recipient of a public safety department citation for capturing a man accused of five felonies.

Detective cited for investigation

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Detective Ryan Willmer found himself on the receiving end of a citation last month and the public safety department’s chief couldn’t be prouder.

“Detective Willmer is

credit to the professionalism of this department,” said Jim Bostock, director of public safety.

“I knew at an early age I wanted to be a police officer because I wanted to go into work wanting to go into work,” Willmer said. “I thought this could provide that and it did.”

Bostock awarded Willmer a department citation in February for cleaning the community of a bullying, battering arsonist.

“Detective Willmer gained the trust of a domestic assault victim

See CITED, page 8B

AREA ACTIVITIES



Randi Chylinski and her borzoi, Ziggy, showed well at their second Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, earning an Award of Merit.

Second time’s the charm
Pointer, pooch awarded at Westminster

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Nerves nearly got the best of Randi Chylinski during her second appearance at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. A mis-cue led the handler and her prized borzoi, Ziggy, to jump the gun, but a savvy judge helped Chylinski reclaim her Zen.

“I said, ‘I’m so sorry,’ and she said, ‘It’s fine,’” Chylinski recalled. “She said, ‘Just go nice and slow.’”

“Nice and slow” eventually led the part-time Grosse Pointe Woods resident and Ziggy to an Award of Merit.

“The judge put me in a place where I felt ... I was able to ignore all the media and the crowd, all the people recording on their cell phones. She said, ‘Go nice and slow’ and it clicked. Everything went silent. I got collected, back in the game. Sometimes we need that reminder to slow down. It was just what I needed.”

Of the 16 borzoi in the show, Ziggy was a stand-out, earning one of two Awards of Merit.

“The other one went to the No. 1 borzoi in the country,” Chylinski said. “It was great seeing the underdog come up and just do it. I was super excited.”

For each breed, Westminster’s top honors go to Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex for the top male and female of the breed. The next-best male and female of the breed receive Select honors. Awards of Merit go to the next in line.

“The Award of Merit is only given out at special events; they’re never offered at regular dog shows,” Chylinski said. “It’s a way of saying that your dog, in the judge’s opinion, is special, just not first or second.”

Chylinski and Ziggy participated in their first Westminster last summer, so when they made the trip to Madison Square Garden earlier this month, the duo was more prepared.

“This time around I was more confident,” Chylinski said. “I did it differently this time.”



Judge Patricia Cruz presents an Award of Merit to Randi Chylinski and Ziggy.

Instead of arriving early and risk expending too much of Ziggy’s energy, they decided to do their exploring after the show. She did, however, give herself enough time to double-check the judges’ program and make sure all her bases were covered.

She’s glad she did.

“I made this giant poster board with pictures of (Ziggy) and her statistics, for the public to see,” she said. “Well, poster boards are not allowed. And the crates couldn’t be bigger than 42 inches; I brought her in a 48-inch crate. So an hour before — New York is so convenient — I went to PetSmart and got the only 42-inch crate they had. I’m so glad I got there early enough and got that done.”

Once inside the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center — Chylinski described the scene as “chaos” — prep work began immediately.

“I was giving her trimmings and blowdries,” she said. “Everyone was saying, ‘It’s fine. It’s just a dog show.’ ... It is not just a dog show!”

“... It was the most memorable show,” she added. “The best part was coming out of the ring and my friend came up and Ziggy came straight at her. The other people around, just the looks on their faces — all of them smiling. People we had met on the street the night before who asked if we

were going to be in the show, they came and watched. It was so special. You could feel so much love in the air.”

After Ziggy’s showing — called a conformation — Chylinski spoke with attendees interested in knowing more about the borzoi breed before getting right back into the excitement of watching the Best in Show competition at Madison Square Garden. She said she was impressed with the mix of breeds in attendance, as well as the excitement of guessing who would win.

“Whoever you think is going to win, the other one does,” she laughed. “There were lots of unexpected twists and turns.”

After the show, their five-day trip to the Big Apple allowed Chylinski and Ziggy to enjoy the city’s sights and sounds.

“I love New York City, but I didn’t think it would be a place dogs

could have a good time,” she said. “She proved me wrong. ... She loved chasing pigeons.

“And the snow was great,” she added. “One night it completely filled the city. It was just gorgeous. The next morning it was gone, shoveled away.”

The pair made a stop at the bronze statue of Balto in Central Park, as well as booked time to visit the American Kennel Club Library & Archives.

“It’s amazing to see all this literature you’d never come across,” she said. “Literature from the 1800s and pictures of dogs from the ’30s — dogs that are related to (Ziggy). I had them set aside books that included dogs in her bloodline, so I could see her ancestors.”

Another important book to Chylinski is “The Forsyth Guide to

The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers programs and activities for the community. For information on the following, visit warmemorial.org

◆ Luck of the Irish Dinner and Concert, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, March 7. Includes a three-course meal from Chef Joe Paxton and music by Black Murray Band. Tickets are \$65, \$25 for the concert only.

◆ Second Saturdays at TWM: Sing in Spring, 9 a.m. Saturday, March 8. Includes activity stations and onstage performance. Cost is \$10.

◆ Pre-K Prom, for ages 3 to 6 and their families, 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 9. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$30 for children.

◆ Modern Manners: Youth Etiquette, for ages 8 to 15, 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 16.

Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts a variety of programs. To register for the following, visit grossepointelibrary.org.

◆ Sensory Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Friday, March 7, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Hustle for Health Dance Class, noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Beginning CAD Modeling, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 10, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Girls Reading Group, for elementary-age and tween girls, 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, March 10, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Read, Rhyme & Play, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 11, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Read, Rhyme & Play, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, March 11, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Dream Lab: Teens Only, 4:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Tuesday Night Book Discussion, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ In Hot Mug Book Discussion Group, 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, at Le Rouge

Boulangerie, 15215 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Hugh T. Keyes, the Jerome Keane House, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Donald Nelson and the Arsenal of Democracy, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 13, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

GPAA

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association offers a variety of classes at its studio, located at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. To register for the following, visit grossepointeartcenter.org.

◆ Introduction to Watercolor Pencils with Saveria Giovinnazzo, 10 a.m. to noon Fridays, March 7 to 28.

◆ Landscapes in Oil for Beginners with Linda Boyle, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays, March 13 to 27.

◆ Portraits in the Style of Max Beckman with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, March 20 and 27, and April 3.

◆ Watercolor Collage with Nancy Philo, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 23.

The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs. Registration is required at (313) 882-9600 for the following:

◆ Restorative Evening Yoga, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. the first and third Thursdays, through March 20, with instructor Allie Short. Cost is \$7 for members, \$10 for guests.

◆ Social Media for Mature Learners, 4 to 5 p.m. Fridays, through May 9, with instructor Janisse Green.

◆ The movie “What We Did on Our Holiday” will be shown at noon Friday, March 7. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests.

◆ Field Trip and Lunch, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 11. Lunch is at Kruse and Muer, followed by a tour of the Leader Dogs for the Blind campus. Cost is \$30 for members, \$35 for guests.

◆ Watercolor Painting, 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 12, with instructor Linda Boyle. Cost is \$25

See EVENTS, page 8B

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BUT YOU LOOK FINE

By Donna Zetterlund
Special Writer

An old saying that becomes truer every year is, “growing older is not for the weak.” So many parts go on the fritz without even a warning light as one ages. Odd surprises crop up too — like the increasingly random aches and pains that seem to come out of nowhere. Activities that were once done with ease and a touch of daring can now cause debilitating spasms and lasting soreness.

Just getting out of bed can be dangerous — indeed at this age that is a thing. I once wrenched my back for three weeks by simply opening a package of smoked deli turkey slices. True. Gone are the days I could run across cobblestones in 4-inch heels without twisting an ankle, now I suffer lunchmeat-related injuries without ever leaving home.

The pizza with everything we once dove into as teens can now cause indigestion that keeps us up all night. Homecoming heroes on the football field are reminded of winning plays every day by knees that snap, crackle and pop louder than any breakfast cereal.

Maybe they did warn us, but we were too busy having fun to listen. You see, we already thought we knew everything back then.

Exacerbating those aches and pains is often the fact that aside from our yelps and creaky cartilidge noises, many of these chronic pains of aging appear to outsiders as invisible. Spinal disc erosion, joint pain, bursitis, sciatica, and some arthritis cannot be seen with the naked eye, so those on the outside are occasionally short on sympathy — or expect us to perform through gritted teeth as though we were still factory-perfect. Add to that other existing invisible conditions that affect all ages like fibromyalgia, Lyme disease, lupus, afib and chronic fatigue and we are further debilitated — while those around us may become even more perplexed and suspicious of our lack of enthusiastic participation at times.

Since aging in America seems to be an increasingly unappreciated practice (other cultures are much better at revering their elder community members) most of us try to hide its effects so as not to be left behind — or worse yet — coddled. This all works against any goal of allowing others to understand how we really feel.

Yes, we live in a world where people truly believe only what they experience firsthand, so trying to communicate what’s happening to your body and what that means to your capabilities and relationships is a frustrating prospect. Family members, friends or even medical professionals are not always empathetic — because you seem ok on the surface, fine one minute, yet could be totally out of service several hours later. Flareups can last for days or weeks with many chronic conditions and severely hamper lifestyle and activities. Your mind may say, “yes” while your body says, “no.”



When pain is invisible and chronic, support may fade

Those close to you are only human — and not having lived through their own ongoing ebb-and-flow of pain, might have a hard time processing it. Like how sometimes you need a cane but other days you can (almost) skip down the sidewalk. Neighbors wonder why occasionally you need to use your handicap spot while other days you feel well enough to walk a few blocks. Yet that is the nature of so many chronic illnesss and injuries. They come and go in intensity, whether people believe it or not.

The good news is, there are things you can do to improve both pain and relationships.

To address this growing problem as populations age, pain clinics are offering new treatments. Start with your own physician but if you don’t see improvement — oftentimes a pain clinic can provide non-pharmaceutical treatments not available elsewhere, such as TENS (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation) therapy, bioelectric therapy or acupuncture. Trigger point injections, physical therapy, and surgical implants have provided relief to countless patients. Having a protocol that is effective in managing your pain can give you your life back.

Putting off treatment may only make it worse, so find a trusted specialist who can focus on your particular area of pain. While pain origin is sometimes difficult to diagnose, don’t give up. You’ll have to be your best advocate and persist until you find the right specialist. It’s easy to chalk things up to aging, but only you know the difference between normal slowing down and something wrong that needs to be addressed. There are many treatments that can help, from drugs to chiropractic adjustments, exercise and therapies to surgeries. Your best life is worth fighting for.

As for the people around you — they may never understand how difficult it is for those with chronic pain just to get to the starting point each day. (May they never find out.) Try to stay positive and focus on self-care when others push too hard. Learn to say no before you hit your limit.

As tempting as it may be — do your best to not get caught up in a loop of complaining — it will make you feel worse and not do much for your relationships. Don’t ignore the emotional toll of feeling misunderstood but find appropriate places to vent, like support groups or counselors. Then look for fun things to do with friends that are within your abilities — but don’t overpromise or overdo. Stress and exhaustion make pain worse. A positive outlook and happy times increase endorphins and that actually helps reduce pain, according to Harvard Health. Eat healthy foods, drink sufficient water and get enough sleep. Self-care is critical. Don’t forget to laugh and find something to enjoy each day.

Even with chronic pain your life can be full, active and meaningful. Don’t let pain change your story.

Resources for chronic pain management, treatment and support

Medical care
Michigan Neurology Association & Pain Consultants
19699 East 8 Mile Rd., St. Clair Shores
(586) 445-9900

Carlo E. Adams, MD
20870 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods
(586) 771-0100

Stephen Wilson, MD
Advanced Physical Medicine
24345 Harper Ave., St. Clair Shores
(586) 563-3313

Support
American Chronic Pain Association Support Group
acpanow.com

Chronic Pain Anonymous
chronicpainanonymous.org

National Fibromyalgia Association
fmaware.org

Pain Connection
painconnection.org

Treatments
Breckel's Massage Therapy
16610 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Park
(313) 886-8761 • breckelsmassagetherapy.com

Clairpointe family Chiropractic
18720 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Farms
(313) 886-8030 • clairpointe.com

Pointe Accupuncture
15133 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe
(313) 924-5514 • pointeacupuncture.com





Second Time Around

By Margie Reins Smith

The Golden Age of Imagination

Do any native Detroiters in their 70s or 80s remember Happy Hank?

Not “Help Me Hank,” the WDIV Local 4 reporter who solves real problems for real people in real time. No. Happy Hank was a 1940s to ’50s radio personality. He hosted a children’s program that aired early in the morning on school days.

As I was getting ready for school, Happy Hank was my pal. I don’t remember what he chattered about. He probably sang songs and held conversations with imaginary beings and told jokes and riddles. I was getting dressed and anxiously anticipating the last few minutes of the program when Happy Hank would turn on The Magic Eye.

The Magic Eye enabled him to see if all the children in his audience were properly dressed and ready for school. As the program neared its end, he even offered a few reminders: “Make sure the label on your shirt is in the back. Zip up your zipper.”

Then he told us to stand up — straight and tall — in front of the radio speaker. He’d turn on The Magic Eye so he could see if we were ready for school. The Magic Eye made a noise. It whirred and buzzed, so we knew when he turned it on.

Sometimes Hank would single children out. He’d ask Mary if her shoes were on the right feet; he’d remind Bobby to tuck his shirt in; he’d ask Carol or Jimmy or Penny to look out the

bedroom window and decide if boots or raincoats or umbrellas were needed.

I can’t believe I fell for this baloney. But this was the “Golden Age of Radio” and — in my opinion — the “Golden Age of Imagination.”

I was in preschool, then kindergarten and this was before TV, before iPads, iPhones, instant cameras, personal recording devices, computers, AI and before anything remotely “magical” had been invented. The Magic Eye was a product of an age when imagination filled in the blank spaces instead of key strokes and videos.

So I stood — straight and tall — in front of the radio’s speaker. Happy Hank knew me personally, of course, and could see that my shoes were

tied and my shirt buttoned correctly.

When I was a bit older, I listened to Sgt. Preston of the Yukon, an after-school program for kids. Sgt. Preston was a Canadian mountie and he had a faithful dog, King. The sponsor was Quaker Puffed Wheat, which the announcer assured listeners was “shot from guns.” I took this literally,

imagining dozens of men lined up with rifles, shooting cereal into colorful boxes.

The Lone Ranger aired in the evening, after dinner. My mother — or somebody else’s mother — would call to neighborhood children who were playing outside. “The Lone Ranger is on,” she’d yell. We’d scramble inside and sit cross-legged on the floor in front of the radio, elbows on knees, chins on clasped fists, staring up at the speaker as the Lone Ranger and Tonto galloped about, maintaining law and order in the old West.

The Lone Ranger wore a mask and carried silver bullets and rode a horse named Silver — “a fiery horse with the speed of

light.” I remember the theme song for the program, Rossini’s overture to “William Tell.” I never could figure out, however, why the Lone Ranger wore a mask. I must have missed that episode. And furthermore, I imagined a mask that covered his whole face.

A few years later, when the Lone Ranger had his own television show, I saw what kind of mask he wore. What kind of baloney was this? How could such a small mask conceal someone’s identity? It just covered his eyes, for Pete’s sake, and we could all still see his face.

Imagination withered and died. The “Golden Age of Television” had begun.

Featured programs at The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, hosts a wealth of programming throughout the month of March, including a few new offerings.

Sights and sounds

Among new offerings is Jazz and Art at The

Helm, which takes place 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 25. Guests are invited to enjoy an evening of live jazz courtesy of musicians Gwen and Charles Scales, while browsing the artwork of local artists.

Regular performers at Dirty Dog Jazz Café, the Scaleses will perform

while attendees stroll through the great room at The Helm, which features local works of art curated by Michelle Boggess-Nunley, artist and owner of Posterity Gallery in the City of Grosse Pointe.

The artwork will

See HELM, page 7B



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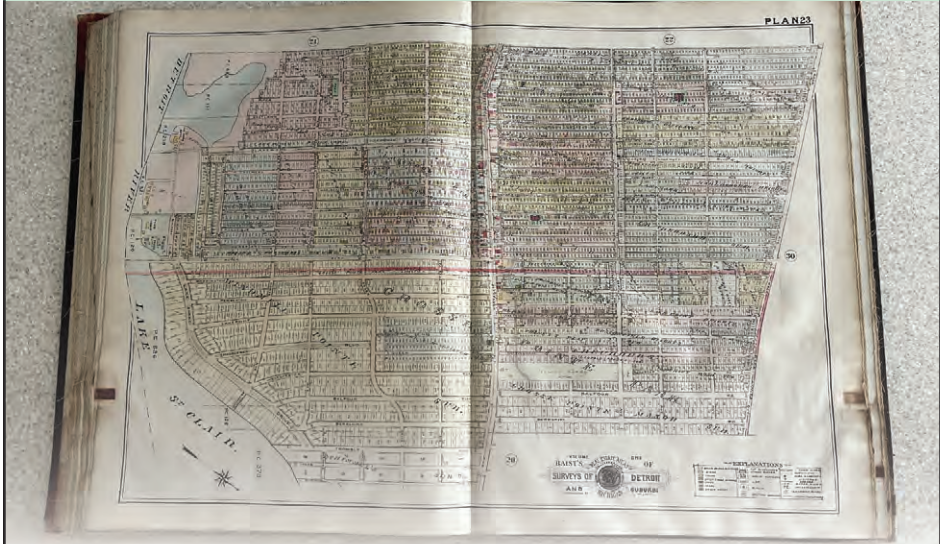


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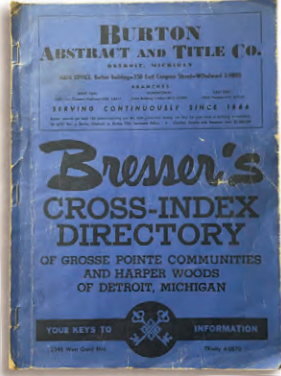


Beyond Google: Why Old-School Maps Still Rock for Research



A view of Grosse Pointe Park in the Baist Atlas, Vol. 1 1918.

At the Grosse Pointe History Center, maps, atlases and directories serve as invaluable tools for understanding the evolution of our community. They offer a tangible, visual record of past landscapes, revealing how boundaries, roads and settlements have shifted over time. Researchers can trace the development of neighborhoods, identify the locations of long-gone businesses or landmarks and even uncover historical land ownership. This spatial perspective allows us to connect personal stories and family histories to the physical environment, enriching our understanding of the influences that shaped our local identity and providing a deeper appreciation for our present-day community.



Bresser's Business Directory, 1953

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OBITUARIES

Obituary notices are purchased and often prewritten by family or friends. While we try to run obituaries as submitted, we nevertheless reserve the right to edit for accuracy, style and length.

Daniel Clifford Bahr

Daniel “”Danny” Clifford Bahr, 60, of Harper Woods and Houghton Lake, passed away Friday, Feb. 21, 2025.

Danny was the son of the late Betty (nee Lynch) and Anthony Bahr. He was predeceased by his beloved brothers, David and Brian Bahr. Danny was the proud and loving father of his daughter, Emily, and sons, Daniel and David. He also is survived by Kimberly Viviano, the mother of his children. He was the dear brother of Karen Harris, Craig Bahr (Linda), Kevin Bahr and Marlene Bahr (Erik Greer); as well as a loving uncle to his many nieces and nephews.

Danny worked in hospitality and sales and loved the outdoors. He enjoyed boating, skiing and fishing, as well as sharing his knowledge and skills. A people-lover at heart, he will be remembered by all who knew him for his great smile, welcoming personality and generous spirit.

Visitation will be held from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 7, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. A memorial Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 8, at St. Joan of Arc

Catholic Church, 22412 Overlake, St. Clair Shores.

Gary Charles Ohlsson

Gary Charles Ohlsson, 71, of Grosse Pointe, passed away Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025, in Troy.

Gary was born in Detroit, to Gertrude and Charles Ohlsson. He worked in advertising for Applied Graphics Technology and Leo Burnett Worldwide. Gary was a lover of music, the handiest of men and a friend to all. He also enjoyed a good nap.

Gary is survived by his wife, Julie; daughter, Madeline; son, Charles (Kelsey Devaney); sister, Gretchen Ohlsson (Leo Carr); and nephew, Erik Carr.

His ashes will be spread at Hubbard Lake.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 2000 Town Center, Ste. 1730, Southfield, MI 48075, bit.ly/47PrHTz.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 15, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms. A reception will immediately follow at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Joan Nill

Joan Nill, 89, passed away Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025.

Joan was the beloved wife of the late William; proud mother of Rosa and Nancy (Gary); and loving grandmother of Isabella and Michael Malburg. She was predeceased by her siblings, Mae, Tom, Richard, Marge, Blanche, George, Owen and Jenny.

Joan was loyal, kind and thoughtful. She loved traveling and spending time with her family and pets.

A funeral was held at A.H. Peters Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Woods. Memorial donations may be made to the Michigan Humane Society, 2937 E. Grand Blvd., Ste. 800, Detroit, MI 48202, bit.ly/3QnlVRa.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Guido Sabella

Guido Sabella, 94, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025.

He is survived by his loving wife, Marilyn; children, Thomas (Carol), Janice Degen (Sean), David (Michele) and Matthew (Michele); 19 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. He also is survived by many nieces, nephews and remain-



Daniel Clifford Bahr

ing family and friends.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 6, with Rosary at 7 p.m. at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. He will lie in state Friday, March 7, from 10 a.m. until Mass at 10:30 a.m. at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. A committal service with military honors will take place immediately following Mass at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, bit.ly/43lY5gK.

Alice McElvenny Oldham

Alice McElvenny Oldham, 89, died Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend.

Alice was born April 12, 1935, in Washington, D.C. She moved to Grosse Pointe Farms with her family in 1950. As a teen, she learned to hit a winning lob on the tennis court from her father



Gary Charles Ohlsson



Guido Sabella

and enjoyed creating beautiful needlework, which became a lifelong endeavor. With a clever sense of humor and a ready smile reflected in her eyes, Alice lived a life full of love, adventure and learning.

After graduating from Grosse Pointe Country Day School in 1953, Alice attended Vassar College in New York, where she studied art history as a lover of stories told through art. While at Vassar, she also started two small on-campus businesses. Upon completion of a bachelor’s degree in 1957, she received a master’s degree in art history from the University of California, Berkeley, followed by a teaching certificate from University of California, Davis. While at Berkeley, a chance encounter led to her meeting the love of her life, Theodore Oldham, an agriculture student enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

Alice and Ted were married in 1959, and spent 66 fulfilling and adventurous years together in an enduring partnership. Their marriage was a true love story that took them across the world, from Europe to Africa through Ted’s Army career, and back to the U.S. to Ann Arbor. Alice achieved a master’s degree in education from the University of Michigan and Ted earned a law degree there. Afterward, they continued raising their family in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Alice cherished her role as loving wife and mother and was a great problem solver and quick thinker. Unwilling to be left behind in the U.S. when Ted was stationed in Ethiopia, she arrived there unannounced with two children in tow. That big surprise created an enriching new chapter for the family. Alice maintained a close and supportive relationship with her children — Elisabeth Johnson, Ted Oldham and Kathryn Oldham — all her life. She played a constant and very active role in her grandchildren’s lives, staying close to those living out of town and having the local grandchildren over for frequent sleepovers and fun outings. It’s hard to know who enjoyed them the most.



Joan Nill



Alice Oldham

Alice’s bravery and determination were evident again when she returned to school in her early 40s as one of the first women to attend the University of Detroit Mercy College of Law. Graduating with a Juris Doctorate degree in 1982, Alice demonstrated to her children and their friends that girls and women can achieve their goals. She went on to serve as assistant general counsel at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan for 17 years. She greatly enjoyed the work and her colleagues.

Years of memories were made at the family’s farm in the Thumb of Michigan, where Alice and Ted relocated an abandoned 1905 farmhouse. The family lived in it while painstakingly rehabbing it. Alice also spent countless happy hours in the gardens, planting and harvesting a wide variety of vegetables and flowers while sharing important lessons with her children. Birdwatching, enjoying the quiet beauty of the natural world and walking the shore of Lake Huron also were some of her favorite activities. No fossil or interesting rock escaped her sharp eye.

She made crowd-pleasing applesauce from farm-grown trees and loved the 10 German shepherds who enlivened their homes over the decades. Alice valued the many friendships she made through the Junior League of Detroit, Quilt Guild of Metro Detroit, Trinity Episcopal Church in Lexington and Christ Church Grosse Pointe. She also quietly supported many charitable organizations. Alice will be incredibly missed by all who knew her.

Alice is survived by her husband, Ted; children, Elisabeth Johnson, Ted Oldham and Kathryn Oldham; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; brother, Ralph T. McElvenny Jr.; and sister, Elisabeth Nardine. She was predeceased by her parents, Ralph T. and Elisabeth S. McElvenny.

A private family memorial service will be held in the spring at Christ Church Grosse Pointe. The family requests in lieu of flowers memorial donations be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 2000 Town Center, Ste. 1730, Southfield, MI 48075.



Larry LaCross

profession of vows on September 7, 1973.

In 1974, Larry moved to St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit, which became the heart of his life and ministry for decades. He served as receptionist and porter before taking on financial responsibilities as the monastery’s business manager and “block bookkeeper.” From 1974 to 1978, he co-directed the Seminary Guild, helping to support Capuchin vocations.

His ministry briefly took him abroad in 1980 when he joined a parish ministry team at Guardian Angels Parish in Wynnum, Australia. However, feeling the pull of home, he returned to Detroit after one year and resumed his service.

After his return from parish ministry in Australia, Larry started working for the Archdiocese of Detroit, a first in residence at St. Boniface parish and later at St. Bonaventure Monastery. Larry would serve the Archdiocese of Detroit through the 1980s as Accountant, later as Director of Purchasing, and finally as Director of Publishing, all while remaining the Business Manager for St. Bonaventure Monastery.

In 1987, he took on a new role as Mission Director for the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph, also overseeing the Development Office and Public Relations. He moved to Hazel Park, Michigan, where he joined the St. Mary Magdalen Community.

In 1998, Larry was appointed Guardian of St. Bonaventure Monastery, a role he

held for 13 years. During his time as Guardian, he was a driving force in renovating the monastery and integrating elder care within the friary. He ensured the monastery could provide a welcoming and supportive home for aging friars.

After his tenure as Guardian, Larry continued serving the province as Mission Secretary and Director of Development. Yet in 2015, he was once again called to serve as Guardian of St. Bonaventure Monastery. In this final chapter of his ministry, he remained dedicated to the care of elderly friars, ensuring the monastery remained a place where friars could spend their final days.

Beyond his leadership roles, Larry was known for his deep love of cooking and baking, a gift he used to serve his brothers throughout his life. After many years as Guardian, he embraced a new role as Kitchen Manager of St. Bonaventure Monastery, continuing to nourish the friars inspired by American chefs like Alice Waters or Julia Child with quotes as, “Everything tastes better with butter,” or, “With enough butter, anything is good.”

In 2024, while preparing a meal one weekend, Larry mentioned that he was feeling unwell and needed to visit urgent care. Shortly afterward, he was diagnosed with cancer. With the support of the monastery’s care staff and his legendary willpower, he faced his

illness with courage. In February 2025, as his condition worsened, he was admitted to the hospital for specialized care. Soon after, he returned home to St. Bonaventure Monastery, where he accepted Sister Death with reluctant surrender, surrounded by his Capuchin brothers.

Br. Larry is preceded in death by his parents, Theodore Leo and Genevieve Helen (Kotwicki) LaCross; and his siblings Geraldine LeFave and Terry LaCross. He is survived by his siblings, Shirley (Tom) Kendziorski, Margaret LaCross, Bob (Sue) LaCross, Rick (Linda) LaCross, Patricia (Patrick) Skiba, Tom (Mary Ann) LaCross and Mary (Jeff) Moody; brother-in-law, James LeFave; sister-in-law, Carol LaCross; and his Capuchin brothers, with whom he lived, prayed, and ministered for over five decades.

Br. Larry’s funeral was held at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit. A visitation will take place on Thursday, March 6th from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. with a 7 p.m. Prayer Service at Bannan Funeral Home, 222 S. 2nd Ave., Alpena, MI 49707. He will lie in state on Friday, March 7th from 9 a.m. until the time of his Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. at All Saints Parish - St. Bernard Church, 324 W. Chisholm St., Alpena, MI 49707.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Capuchins, thecapuchins.org/donate. Share a memory at verheyden.org.

The Helm hosts March for Meals for Meals on Wheels

The Helm’s seventh annual March for Meals for Meals on Wheels began Saturday, March 1. The virtual event, which raises money for the Meals on Wheels program at The Helm, runs through Monday, March 31.

“In 2024, The Helm served just over 29,000 nutritious meals to home-bound Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe residents unable to safely prepare meals for themselves,” The Helm Executive Director Krista Siddall said. “That was up 12 percent from 2023, and 39 percent more than in 2022. As our population continues to age, the need for Meals on Wheels

keeps growing.

“On top of the increased need is an increased cost in food,” she continued. “Each meal used to cost \$5. In the fall of last year, the price increased to \$7. That’s a 40 percent increase in the cost of food. This March for Meals fundraising event is critical to ensuring we can continue to provide meals to those in our community who need them.”

There are options to support this event. Participants may gather sponsors to donate based on the amount of exercise completed; commit to an exercise routine and make a designated donation; or — though every-

one is encouraged to exercise — simply make a donation to The Helm March for Meals program.

Visit helmlife.org/march-for-meals for information on ways to support this event. For motivation, the site lists several three-mile walking/biking routes around the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods. Exercises must be completed by March 31, and all monies raised must be submitted to The Helm by Tuesday, April 1, to count toward this event. Donations may be made through the website or sent to The Helm, 158 Ridge Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

“While March for Meals is a great way to draw attention to Meals on Wheels, donations for Meals on Wheels can be made anytime throughout the year,” Siddall said. “If you donate through our website or send a check, just specify the donation is for Meals on Wheels. We are so grateful for all of the donations supporting this essential program.”

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church continues as lead partner of March for Meals and is instrumental in spreading the word and providing financial support of this event.

“We’re so thankful for this partnership and the

Meals on Wheels funding

The Detroit Area Agency on Aging provides Meals on Wheels to those in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods, but the DAAA program serves less than 50 percent of those in need, leaving many on a waitlist. The Helm has ensured no one in Harper Woods or the Grosse Pointes is on a waitlist.

Every week, The Helm serves between 100 and 120 individuals, many of whom would be waiting for assistance.

As of Dec. 31, 2024, The Helm had 109 Meals on Wheels clients. DAAA funding paid for 47 individuals; The Helm paid for the other 62 individuals. In January alone, residents of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods received 2,521 meals.

With rising costs — meal expenses have gone from \$5 to \$7 per meal — support for Meals on Wheels is more critical than ever. Fundraising efforts like March for Meals for Meals on Wheels enable The Helm to fulfill its mission of providing meals to all qualified recipients in the Harper Woods and Grosse Pointes.

generosity of the congregation,” Siddall said. “We’re excited to have the Grosse Pointe South National Honor Society as

a partner this year and look forward share the importance of Meals on Wheels with these younger group of people.”

Mariners’ Church of Detroit to celebrate 61st Blessing of the Fleet

The 61st annual Blessing of the Fleet follows a centuries-old tradition that started in Mediterranean fishing villages in the 14th century and will be re-enacted at Mariners’ Church of Detroit at 11 a.m. Sunday, March 9.

Grounded in Jesus’ calling of the fishermen to be his apostles, the Blessing of the Fleet began as a prayer for a safe and bountiful fishing season. The Mariners’ Church ceremony invites fishermen and other maritime professionals and recreational boaters to bring their burgees, banners, pennants and flags to receive a seafarers blessing for themselves, their boats, their crews and their passengers.

For those unable to join in person, the service will be live-streamed at youtube.com/@MarinersChurchofDetroit.

“The tradition of the Blessing of the Fleet first came to the U.S. along the Gulf Coast shortly after World War II and has expanded to waterfront communities throughout the country since then,” said Rev. Todd Meyer, rector of Mariners’ Church of Detroit. “Our service has been held every year since 1961. In 2020, we added livestream video to reach throughout the Midwest and enable thousands more people to attend the

service. That has hugely expanded our reach, inviting boaters from across the Great Lakes region to join in our prayers for a safe season.”

The Blessing of the Fleet ceremony incorporates inspirational music by Mariners’ professional choir accompanied by the church’s 4,100 pipe organ. An honorary color guard of ship masters and military personnel will participate in the service.

The service culminates in the presentation of the annual Capt. Lewis Ludington Award to the ship master who has done the most to perpetuate and promote the work and heritage of the International Ship Masters Association.

This year’s Ludington Award winner is Capt. Jason A. Dmitruchina of Detroit Lodge No. 7. His passion for boating began during childhood visits to his grandparents’ home on Pelee Island, Ontario, Canada, where he quickly become fascinated by passing ships. After acquiring his Merchant Mariner credential, Dmitruchina began his career in earnest, ultimately finding a home on tugboats in positions of increasing responsibility. In 2010, he became captain on the tugboat Demolen for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Detroit District.

Mariners’ Church, one of the oldest remaining buildings on the Detroit riverfront, is a national historic landmark. The church was founded in 1842, as a place for visiting sailors from around the world to worship without the pew fees that were commonplace at other churches. The historic church today is a welcoming “house of prayer for all people” who wish to visit or participate in its services. The church is located at 170 E. Jefferson. It was moved about 200 yards from its original location on the foot of Woodward in 1955.

“Mariners was a gift to the sailors who prayed in the church when it was built,” Meyer said. “Today we think of it as a treasure for the city of Detroit and welcome one and all to join our services. The Blessing of the Fleet is an especially beautiful service and we hope it will attract a big congregation on March 9, mariners or not. All are welcome.”

Mariners’ recently benefitted from significant interior and exterior renovations. In 2023, the 19-foot-high spires on the four corners of the church’s roof, missing since 1871, were replaced. The spires, which are up-lit at night, are each topped by a sculpted copper fleur-de-lis, a nod to the city’s French heritage.

St. Paul on the Lake

The St. Paul on in the Lake Knights of Columbus hosts fish dinners at 5 p.m. Fridays during Lent, beginning March 7, in the St. Paul school cafeteria. The same evenings, St. Paul offers Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m., as well as a Lenten speaker series. For more information, call (313) 885-8855 or email agraves@stpaulonthelake.org.

HELM:

Continued from page 5B

remain on display at The Helm until mid-March.

All are invited to attend; however, there is a charge and registration is required. Cost to attend the performance and art show is \$25 per member, \$35 for guests. Register at helmlife.org or by calling (313) 882-9600.

“We’re excited to have this program available to the community and maybe help familiarize more people about The Helm,” The Helm Executive Director Krista Siddall said. “Gwen is a beloved exercise instructor here at The Helm and a talented vocalist. We’re glad we can showcase her talents as well as the artistry of others from our community.”

Get fit, feel secure

Whether looking for an exercise class, camaraderie or to learn something new, The Helm offers two new presentations in March: “Taking the Mystery Out of Balance and Posture” and “Online Security Behaviors and Practices.”

When Mom said to stand up straight, she knew what she was talking about. In addition to helping people look good at any age, good posture is important to muscle

strength and balance — two critical components to help minimize falls. Falls related to aging are not inevitable. Exercise instructor Paul Clark will discuss the importance of posture, balance and body movement and provide activities to help maintain strength and balance.

“Taking the Mystery Out of Balance and Posture” runs 1:30 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, at The Helm. The lecture is free to members and \$5 for guests.

Protecting online accounts and information is the focus of the presentation, “Online Security Behaviors and Practices,” which takes place 1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at The Helm. Information technology expert Jim Creighton will provide practical ways to reduce the risk to online information and devices. He’ll share simple signs of spam email; how to use a password manager to more effectively manage online accounts; how to use secure Wi-Fi networks and more. There’s a lot to learn, but every little step increases security and confidence. This workshop is free.

Registration is required for all activities at The Helm. Register at helmlife.org or by calling (313) 882-9600.

FASHION:

Continued from page 1B

patients and our associates. That’s what we try to do. Our White Christmas Ball benefits our associates, which ends up benefiting our patients.”

Cracchiolo joined after attending meetings with

her sister-in-law.

“My mother-in-law was a member of Fontbonne,” she said. “I like raising money for pediatrics. It’s a great cause. The hospital in general needs help and this is something we can do.

“Fontbonne itself is a great place to meet people and develop lifelong friendship, too,” she

added.

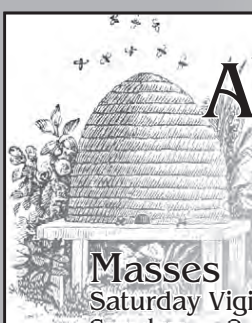
“My husband is a surgeon there and I delivered my two boys there,” said Berri, noting she joined the auxiliary in 2017. “It’s not just a group of women. They became my family; it’s a sisterhood. It’s a great bond that we have.

“Through Fontbonne we can raise money for

every amazing cause,” she added. “Philanthropy is not just about money. It’s about who you know and bringing those people together to try to make a better world together.”

Those interested in learning more about Fontbonne should email Zalenski at llz523@aol.com.

Worship Service



Saint Ambrose Catholic Church

15020 Hampton
Grosse Pointe Park,
Michigan 48230-1302

Masses

Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.m. ☞
Sunday — 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.
Tuesday — 8:30 a.m.
Thursday — 7:00 p.m.
Friday — Noon

(313) 822-2814 • stambrosechurch.net • facebook.com/stambroseparish
☞ Saturday Vigil is streamed online at 8:00 a.m. Sunday on our facebook page

Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool

Mack at Lochmoor • 884-5090
www.christthekinggp.org

SUNDAY
8:30 a.m. - Bible Study
9:30 a.m. - Worship Service
Sunday School - During Service

WEDNESDAY
10 a.m. - Bible Study
6:30 p.m. - Worship Service

Solomon Spangler, Pastor
Making New Disciples- Building Stronger Ones

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church

(United Church of Christ)

Worship Sunday at 10:00 am
Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver
An Open & Affirming Church
240 Chalfonte G.P. Farms
313-884-3075 • www.gpcong.org
WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

8B | FEATURES

CHARM:

Continued from page 3B

Successful Dog Showing,” by Robert and Jane Forsyth, the only husband-and-wife team to both win Best in Show at Westminster. Their daughter, Sioux Forsyth-Green, was a judge in this year’s show. Chylinski had her sign her parents’ book.

Since her first Westminster, Ziggy has earned BCAT status, “the first level in terms of Fast CAT racing,” Chylinski said.

The pair also has done a lot of traveling for dog shows — to Indianapolis, Ohio, Orlando and multiple trips to Chicago.

The Orlando trip in December was to the American Kennel Club national championships. Ziggy received Best of

Opposite in the National Owner-Handled Series. “She’s 10 points away from Grand Champion Bronze,” Chylinski noted, “but we took time off this summer. You’ve got to let a dog be a dog.”

Now back in Los Angeles, Chylinski and Ziggy headed to the Del Mar Fairgrounds for the Silver Bay Dog Show last week. Ziggy also has a therapy dog visit in the near future; she is certified through Therapy Dogs International.

Despite the busy schedule, both still are buzzing from the excitement of New York City.

“This was a once-in-a-lifetime show,” Chylinski said. “To go once was awesome; to go twice is fate. It’s such a special event. I’m so glad we were able to make it.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF TANNER CONGLETON/ CONGLETON PHOTOGRAPHY

Chylinski and Ziggy share a moment at Westminster.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RANDI CHYLINSKI

Chylinski and Ziggy in Central Park, visiting the Balto statue.



While at Westminster, Chylinski asked Sioux Forsyth-Green to sign a copy of her parents’ book, “The Forsyth Guide to Successful Dog Showing by Robert and Jane Forsyth.”

OFFICER:

Continued from page 2B

officer, an evidence technician, field training officer and emergency medical technician.

“He just passed his drone pilot license, has four department commendation awards, one unit commendation and a

life-saving award,” Bostock said.

“I got a lot of help from the chief and my supervisors for additional training,” Gilchrist said. “That’s what boosted me forward, working well with my team and experienced officers who helped me with everything.”

Prior to being hired by

Junior League of Detroit introduces new fundraiser 313 Pours is March 13 at Roostertail

The Junior League of Detroit will kick off a year of fundraising efforts with its inaugural 313 Pours, a night of wine tasting, cigar sampling and a silent auction.

The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 13, at the Roostertail, 100 Marquette, Detroit.

The event will highlight the best wine regions, featuring carefully curated selections from international and local vineyards, paired with bites inspired by Detroit’s diverse culinary scene. Entertainment will be provided by Detroit DJ Seven Whales.

While 313 Pours is the first in a slate of new fundraisers of the JLD, the organization will continue its longstanding tradition of providing trained volunteers and financial support to projects and programs supporting women and children in Wayne County.

“We look forward to the public joining us at 313 Pours as we kick off the programming leg of our league’s fundraising,” JLD President Mary Hollens said. “We’ll celebrate Detroit and raise funds. As the requests to do more come in — from reviving a much-needed

food pantry to offering financial resources to innovative community projects — we realize the need is great.

“I’m most excited about our members,” she added, “who continue to take our JLD mission and motto to heart: ‘Women doing a world of good.’ They’re doing good across our community in the 313.”

Tickets to 313 Pours are \$65 each; proceeds benefit JLD charitable causes.

There are several locally based organizations to which the JLD provides support. Among them are Brilliant Detroit, Salvation Army Conner Creek and Enchanted Makeovers.

The JLD also provides scholarship support through its Grants and Scholarship Committee. In 2024, 10 graduating high school senior women attending colleges and universities — including the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, Hope College and Louisiana State University — each received \$1,500 in scholarships from the JLD.

For more information about 313 Pours or to purchase tickets, visit tinyurl.com/4a2fwc3k.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 3B

for members, \$35 for guests.

◆ St. Patrick’s Day Bingo, 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday, March 13. Cost is \$2 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes one card and refreshments.

◆ The movie “The Miracle Club” is shown at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 13. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests.

◆ The movie “Joy” is shown at noon Friday, March 21. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests.

POST Detroit

POST Detroit, 14500 Kercheval, Detroit, hosts several workshops during March. To sign up for the following, visit muturaladoration.com:

◆ Textile Dye Workshop: Batik on Bandanas, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 8. Cost is \$85.

◆ Printmaking Workshop: Intro to Lino Cut, 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 8. Cost is \$65.

◆ Two-Day Ceramics Workshop, 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays, March 9 and 16. Cost is \$125.

◆ Sewing Machine Essentials Workshop: Drawstring Bags, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, March 9. Cost is \$65.

◆ Embroidery Workshop: Outlined Applique, 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 9. Cost is

\$60.

◆ Six-Week Printmaking Workshop: Screen Printing with Melissa Dettloff, Wednesdays, March 12 to April 16. Cost is \$300.

◆ Screen Print Workshop: Pet Portraits with Melissa Dettloff, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 15, or Sunday, March 23. Cost is \$100.

◆ Craft Cocktail Workshop: A Sensory Approach to Transcendent Drinks, 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, March 15, for ages 21 and older. Cost is \$75.

◆ Jewelry Workshop: Intro to Polymer Clay with Trice Clark, 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 16. Cost is \$75.

Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. The following programs take place at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, unless otherwise noted. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org or RSVP to maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

◆ Special Needs Parent Workshop, 7 p.m. Monday, March 10. Panelists include representatives from Carlyle Center, Flourishing Lives and Steele Speech Services. Registration is encouraged, but not

required.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, St. Clair Shores City Hall, 27600 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 21, Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center, 20025 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, March 24, Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

Ford House

The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores, offers the following programs:

◆ Design Through the Decades Guided Tour, 1 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays in March. Admission prices vary.

◆ Storytime: “Outside My Window,” by Linda Ashman, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in March.

◆ New Friends of Ford House Orientation, 6 to 8

p.m. Wednesday, March 12, and Wednesday, Sept. 17.

◆ Once Upon a Tea: Mad Hatter’s Tea Party, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, March 15. Admission prices vary.

Veterans

The Grosse Pointe War Memorial Veterans Club meets from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, March 13, with social hour until 5 p.m. The meeting includes a presentation about U.S. Navy aircraft carriers. U.S. Navy veteran William Falinski, who has served on three different aircraft carriers, will answer questions. The meeting takes place in the lower-level veterans room at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. For more information, call John Bates at (313) 881-4125.

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening hosts a day of screenings for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic conditions Wednesday, March 26, at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods. Registration is required. Special package pricing starts at \$159, but consultants will help create packages based on an individual’s age and risk factors. Call (877) 237-1287 or visit lifeline.com.

the Park in 2017, Gilchrist worked seven years as an emergency room technician at what is now Ascension St. John Hospital in Macomb County.

A hospital coworker, Brady Baetens, joined the Park in 2016, and suggested Gilchrist do the same.

“I’m a fourth-genera-

tion police officer,” Gilchrist said. “It’s in my blood.”

His main goal was to be a firefighter, but being cross-trained in law enforcement wound up being better.

“The opportunity to be everything at once and hone different skills into one is very enticing to me,” Gilchrist said.

CITED:

Continued from page 2B

with apprehension to give officers details of the abuse endured at the hands of the assault suspect,” Bostock said.

The victim reportedly was apprehensive to speak with authorities until Willmer won her trust.

“(She) described a history of abuse including strangulation, death threats and threat to burn down her house,” Bostock said. “Willmer corroborated her statement by collecting hundreds of threatening text messages sent to her by the suspect on his cell phone.”

“We appreciate knowing we’re in good hands,” said Mayor Michele Hodges during an award ceremony Feb. 3.

The case kicked off with a garage fire during the early hours of Aug. 12, in the 1300 block of Maryland.

“Public safety officers doused the burning contents of a garbage can in the 1300 block of Maryland before flames ate too far into a nearby garage,” it was reported at the time.

Willmer discovered evidence of arson. A couple days later, a woman living at the residence told him her former boyfriend had been harassing and threatening her, Bostock said.

“(She) believed he set the fire,” he said.

That same week, a smoke alarm sounded at the same residence.

“Fire was discovered on the stove,” Bostock said. “It appeared to responding officers that it was intentionally lit. The victim resident was not home.”

Willmer headed the investigation.

“Willmer enacted a plan to take a dangerous person into custody before further damage to property or assaults could occur,” Bostock said. “Detective Willmer made use of resources and coordinated a multi-jurisdictional effort to locate and arrest the suspect. The operation was a complete success and resulted in the suspect being arrested without incident, charged with five felonies and jailed on a half-million-dollar bond.

“Detective Willmer’s actions are an example of the professional, thorough, passionate service that have become expected of the Grosse Pointe Park Department of Public Safety.”

Willmer worked part time as a nighttime gate guard at Windmill Pointe Park prior to joining the public safety department in 1999, as the animal control officer.

“My mom worked in the front office (of city hall) for 27 years,” he said.

LIFE & LEISURE



2C GP GABBY | 3C MOMBEAU’S TABLE | 6C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 8C & 9C COMICS

First GP girls troop forms under Scouting America

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

“As a dad, being able to give something to your daughter that you could give to your son, it means a lot to me,” Chris Cornwell said.

His 11-year-old daughter, Piper, is one of the inaugural members of the first Grosse Pointe-based female troop under Scouting America, formerly Boy Scouts of America.

The national organization began accepting girls into separate, gender-specific troops in 2019, and officially changed its name last month on its 115th anniversary.

“Scouting has been this boy’s club,” said Cornwell, himself an Eagle Scout, as well as Cub Scout Pack 147 Cubmaster. “... For my daughter, without belittling Girl Scouts, I don’t want her selling cookies and doing crafts. I want her to learn how to build fires, survive in the wilderness, be a leader, all of those things.”

Grosse Pointe Troop 86G, the sister unit to Troop 86B, held its first charter meeting Monday, with its first six members — though each scout who joins the troop in 2025, will be considered a founding member and earn a founder’s patch.

“These girls are the pioneers,” Cornwell said. “They’re the first ones and maybe they will be



COURTESY PHOTO

Founding members of Troop 86G include, from left, Assistant Scoutmaster Kelly Rossi, Rossi’s daughter, Anna Fontecchio, Scoutmaster Katie Henke, Henke’s daughter, Regan, Piper Cornwell and Mila Palubinskas.

known one day when they’re an adult as someone who’s done something great and the next generation can point to them and say, ‘I want to be just like her.’”

Girls ages 11 to 17 are welcome, regardless of whether they have previous scouting experience, and will be led by Scoutmaster Katie Henke, who grew up in the Park and recently settled back in the Pointes after her husband retired from a military career.

Her daughter, Regan, briefly was part of a girls troop in Georgia.

“Every time we moved, that was my big to-do

list,” said Henke, who works as a long-term substitute teacher at Ferry Elementary School. “I’d find the scout troops for all my kids. ... This was our last big move and I was like, ‘Wait a minute. There’s not a girls troop here yet.’”

Though she jumped at the chance to form one, the idea first was championed by several girl dads whose daughters were about to complete their respective Cub Scout programs and had nowhere to advance.

It’s something Cornwell admits wasn’t on his radar until he had a daughter of his own —

in particular, the fact that up until six years ago, girls did not have the opportunity to become Eagle Scouts.

“When I had a daughter, all of a sudden my whole attitude changed about it,” he said. “Like, why doesn’t she have that opportunity? The Eagle Scout rank opens doors for those who have earned it. Whether it is in a group of business people, whether it’s in jobs or job interviews, whether it is amongst

political or business communities, there’s a respect that comes along with it and that respect will open doors for you, even if it’s just a conversation with somebody.

“... For girls to be blocked from even entering or getting the opportunity to do it had been really disappointing and unfair for so long.”

Though separate units, Troop 86G and Troop 86B’s partnership will start with many

blended events and programming. Participants can anticipate combined camping trips, with separate accommodations, as often as once a month.

“One of the reasons why 86G will start that way is because of the resources,” Cornwell said. “And since the boys unit does have those resources, it’s kind of a no-brainer. They can just camp and have access to all of the equipment and things like that that belong to the boys unit.”

Though learning some emergency skills will be necessary for the camping excursions, it will be up to the girls to lead the troop’s direction toward merit badges they’re interested in earning first.

To join or explore interest in Troop 86G, reach out via troop86g.gp@gmail.com.

“It’s really exciting because scouting has been in Grosse Pointe for a long time,” Henke said. “It has a rich history of scouting. COVID really put a wrench in a lot of people’s things, but the Cub Scout packs are swelling again. Things are just kind of getting back to the normal groove and it’s just a really exciting time for girls to get into the mix.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. SULEIMAN HAMDAM

Special visitor

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, during a visit to Dubai last month, met with longtime Grosse Pointe Park resident Dr. Suleiman Hamdan and his daughter, Sana Hamdan, who both work in Dubai. In her first official visit to the Arab region, Whitmer — as well as other Michigan government leaders, military officials, economic development representatives and prominent Arab American figures — embarked on a trade and investment mission to the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain. The trip was meant to strengthen Michigan’s foreign relations, attract investments and highlight the state’s leadership in defense and aerospace industries, according to The Arab American News.

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Needing some neighborly advice

Dear Gabby: My neighbor, who shall remain nameless, keeps borrowing things from me and “forgetting” to return them.

Most recently, he took a shovel and it’s propped up against his garage like it’s always lived there. How do I get my stuff back without seeming petty or rude? — Empty-handed in the City

Dear Empty-handed: Next time you see your neighbor, casually mention how you miss your favorite shovel. If that doesn’t immediately work, take a stroll over there with a plateful of cookies and casually mention you will need your gear back since you are “starting a bunch of projects” over at your house. Nobody can resist chocolate chip.

And, as always, we catch more bees with honey.

We love problem-solving and giving advice! Please send us your questions & problems to advice@grossepointenews.com.



Living in fear of my neighbor

DEAR ANNIE: I moved into my bungalow six months ago. My new neighbor, we’ll call him “Jeremy,” who I share a very thin party wall with, seemed friendly at first — in fact, overly so. He called first thing every morning — up to eight times a day — mainly to see if I was going out that day so he could pester me to bring things back for him, often without paying for them. In truth, he intimidated me, and I tried to be kind.

When he couldn’t get my attention, he’d bang on the party wall. I gave him meals, but he constantly pestered me for bread, milk, coffee, and tea, none of which he would ever return. He had a mold problem, and I felt sorry for him, so I bought him a new bed and bedding for \$800. At Christmas, I gave him \$400, suggesting he could repay me by cutting my grass over the year.

He’s abrasive, shouting obscenities at neighbors he believes are targeting him. I thought it best to stay on his good side, but the truth is, he’s a bully.

He started picking on me for being moderately overweight, and I threw him a few warning shots. When it escalated, I snapped and texted him, telling him if he couldn’t say anything nice to say nothing at all! And I blocked him.

Now, he screams insults at me through the wall.

A lady who just moved out also had issues with him. The fact that he doesn’t do this in front of other people tells me he’s

a coward.

I called my housing association, and they told me to record him. The problem is, his outbursts are short and unpredictable. He probably knows that by the time I press record, it will be too late to catch him. Worse, if the association got involved, I fear he’d do damage to me, my cat or my property. I have mental health issues myself — bipolar disorder and schizophrenia — and am currently being assessed for autism.

Jeremy is causing me a lot of stress, and I’m starting to have thoughts of self-harm. I really can’t afford to move and don’t know what to do. — Trapped and Terrified.

DEAR TRAPPED AND TERRIFIED: I’m so sorry you’re going through this. Jeremy’s behavior is flat-out harassment and would be absolutely unacceptable anywhere; the fact you’re enduring it in your own home -- a place that should be a safe haven — is heart-breaking.

If you haven’t already, start documenting any and all of Jeremy’s abusive behavior. Even if you’re not able to get it recorded, start logging it. If any of your neighbors can corroborate these incidents, all the better. If your housing association won’t evict Jeremy or intervene, they should at least be able to take a formal complaint from you. Should his behavior escalate to anything physically violent, destructive to your property, etc., do not hesitate to contact your local police.

If moving is truly not an option, I highly encourage you to seek support from a therapist and to lean on your loved ones. Coupled with the mental health issues you’re already facing, I imagine it’s easy to feel alone and isolated — but you aren’t. You deserve to live a happy, peaceful life, and there is support out there to help you make that happen.

DEAR ANNIE: I’ve been with my girlfriend for 15 years. The first few years were wonderful — no complaints. We worked together and spent a lot of time together, and everything felt great.

Then, out of nowhere,



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

she started falling asleep — bam! — nodding off in social situations, especially when we were out with my parents or their friends. It was humiliating, almost as if she were on something. I looked into it — no medical issues, no substance use. It only seemed to happen when she didn’t want to be somewhere.

This has put me through a lot of embarrassment. I even asked her kids about it, and they just chuckled, like this was normal for her. I didn’t grow up around this kind of behavior; it feels completely dysfunctional to me. There have been times I’ve had to kick her under the table to wake her up or just sit there, wanting to cry from the embarrassment.

I told her she needs counseling, and she is seeing a psychiatrist now, but how long does it take to see real change? I’m at my wits’ end with her and these antics. I’m also starting to feel like she’s trying to hurt me in other ways, too. — Not a Sleeping Beauty

DEAR NOT SLEEPING BEAUTY: You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t force it to drink. Your girlfriend is seeing a psychiatrist, but if she’s not truly committed to change, nothing will improve. If this behavior is her way of avoiding situations she doesn’t like, then counseling won’t help unless she acknowledges the issue and wants to fix it.

Ask yourself the question: How much longer are you willing to wait? You can’t spend your life kicking someone under the table and hoping they’ll wake up, both literally and figuratively. If she won’t make the effort, you have a choice to make: accept things as they are or move on to a relationship where you’re respected, not embarrassed.

DEAR ANNIE: I’m finding myself caught in the middle of life’s constant changes, and it feels like no one else is immune to this struggle. At 28, I’m grappling with the

uncertainty of my first real job and the transition from carefree college days to serious adulthood. My best friend, now in her mid-40s, is juggling career changes and the evolving dynamics of her family. And even my grandmother, in her 80s, is exploring new hobbies and relationships that she never imagined at her age.

It seems every generation in my family is facing its own set of transitions, and I can’t help but wonder: How do we hold onto the parts of ourselves that define us while embracing change? Is there a way to honor our past and the experiences that have made us who we are, without feeling overwhelmed by the future?

I’m hoping for some advice that speaks to all of us — whether we’re just starting out, in the thick of midlife or enjoying our golden years — on how to find balance and meaning amid the inevitable shifts of life. — Seeker in Transition

DEAR SEEKER IN TRANSITION: Thank you for writing. Life is a series of changes — whether it’s starting your first job, watching a friend reinvent herself or seeing your grandmother explore new adventures. Hold on to the values and memories that define you; they are the foundation for your future. It’s natural to feel overwhelmed at times. Change is really the only constant of life, and the sooner we embrace that, the happier we will be.

In order to relish each season that you or your loved ones are in, keep a journal to capture your feelings, celebrate every small victory and share your journey with those who relate. Remember, change doesn’t diminish your worth; it simply offers a chance to grow. You’re not alone in this journey.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.
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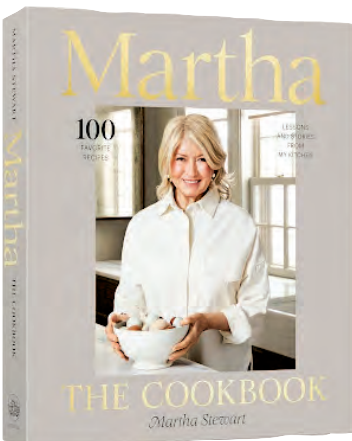
We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



One of my New Year’s resolutions for 2025 is to cook more. Whether hearty dinners or nourishing breakfasts, I have decided I can do better than reheated mac and cheese and chicken nuggets for the kids multiple nights a week. Over the fall, I felt like a culinary genius for mastering chili and beef stew, but let’s be honest, there is only so much chili a family can take. Enter Martha Stewart’s 100th Cookbook, a thoughtful gift from my mom, who

clearly saw the potential for me to step up my game. This cookbook is everything I needed to keep me motivated. First, the recipes are exactly what I hoped for. They are simple enough to tackle after a long day and delicious enough to make me feel like I know what I am doing. Martha somehow takes everyday ingredients and makes them fancy, but not in a way that makes



you cry in the grocery store. I love that her recipes are practical for week-

nights, but also impressive enough to serve to dinner guests, who might leave thinking you moonlight as a Food Network star. The photos in this book are next-level stunning. Beyond the recipes, the book has fun stories and insights from Martha’s life, which makes me feel like I am learning from a best friend or my grandma. So far, everything I have made has been a hit. Even the kids, who usually look at vegeta-

bles like they are poisonous, have cleaned their plates. The instructions are clear, the recipes are manageable and my mom officially can say “I told you so” about how much I love this book. I give this cookbook a big 5 out of 5 alligators. It is fun and inspiring and already has helped me stick to my resolution without making me want to throw in the kitchen towel. If you want to up your cooking game or

just eat something other than freezer meals, this book is an absolute win. *We LOVE testing out new things! Tell us about your favorite item or something you want us to try for you! Drop us a line at media@grossepointenews.com.* 5 Out Of 5



Irish lamb stew

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

Corned beef with braised cabbage and potatoes for St. Patrick’s Day is a must in my house. This year, I’m going to split it into two nights because I’ve found something better. A knock your socks off, cozy Irish classic that is perfect for the home cook. This lamb stew with barley and Guinness will send you straight through to another dimension. I cannot get over how good this turned out. It’s hearty, extremely comforting, rich and savory. There are a couple key elements here. The first is the lamb. I used a bone-in lamb shoulder steak. You can find them at Kroger but I went to Mario’s Meats on 10 Mile Road. The butcher freshly cut three steaks for me weighing one pound each. Slowly braising the steaks whole, with the bones, results in a deeply rich and meaty tasting base. The fat from the lamb slowly dissolves in. The meat falls away from the bones and then can

be easily shredded into the barley filled stew. Next, tender pearl barley adds another delicious and hearty texture. I don’t typically use barley in my stews but I do love it. They soak up the delicious cooking liquids and their starches help to thicken the sauce. Last but not least, the addition of Guinness gives another depth with its pronounced malted and bitter stout flavor. To offset this, I added a touch of brown sugar. The brown sugar plus the carrots and tomato paste brings out the sweetness in the beer. You can swap out for all beef broth with a few shakes of Worcestershire sauce and it will be very good but it will not be the same. St. Patrick’s Day falls on a Monday this year. But take your time with this on Sunday. It’s definitely better the next day. I promise that you will not miss the corned beef! Slainte, Mombeau

- Guinness Lamb and Barley Stew**
- 3 slices thick cut bacon, chopped
 - 2 lbs bone-in lamb shoulder steaks, fat trimmed off
 - 1 onion, chopped
 - 2 celery stalks, chopped
 - 2 large carrots, chopped
 - 2 cloves garlic, chopped
 - 1 tbsp each, chopped rosemary and thyme
 - 2 tbsp tomato paste
 - 1 tbsp brown sugar
 - 14.9 oz can or 12 oz bottle Guinness Stout
 - 4 cups chicken broth
 - 1 lb baby potatoes, halved
 - ¾ cups pearl barley
 - Salt and pepper to taste



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Season both sides of the lamb steaks generously with salt and pepper. In a large stew pot over medium heat, crisp the bacon for about five minutes then remove with a slotted spoon and set aside, leaving behind the drippings. Then sear the lamb steaks on each side until browned. You want to render out most of the fat. This should take about three to four minutes per side. Remove the steaks and set aside.

Add in the onion, celery, carrot, garlic and herbs. Season with a pinch of salt and pepper and cook until the vegetables are soft. After a few minutes spoon in the tomato paste and brown sugar. Stir everything together until the tomato paste is incorporated then add in the Guinness. Cook and stir until the foam subsides then add in the chicken broth, barley and potatoes. Add the meats back into the pan and bring to a low boil. Cover the stew with a lid and place in the oven for

one hour. Remove from the oven and add in the potatoes. Cover again and place back in the oven for one more hour. After the final hour, take the stew out of the oven and remove the lamb steaks. You should easily be able to pull away the bones and any big, lingering pieces of fat. Shred the meat and place back in the stew. It should be thick and hearty once stirred together. Check for seasoning and serve in big bowls with lots of crusty bread and butter.



Grenache

Twenty years ago, I was interviewed on a radio program in San Francisco where, with three minutes left in the show, the host asked, “If you had to take only one wine to a desert island, what would it be?” With no time to elaborate, I said “grenache,” to which the host replied, “You can’t leave us there! You have to explain!” Grenache is one of the most widely planted red wine grape varieties in the world with France and Spain being its largest principal wine regions.



COURTESY PHOTO

He probably thought I would say cabaret, pinot noir or shiraz. But he was right; it’s difficult to briefly explain my love for grenache. But if you love Southern Rhone wines, grenache isn’t so little-known — it’s often the lead grape in Chateauneuf-du-Pape, and it plays a major role in many other red wines such as Cotes du Rhone. It is the main grape in many dry rosés made in France, and it’s an increasingly beloved grape by shiraz producers in the New World as a key addition to red blends. Thirty years ago, the amount of grenache in California was scant — fewer than 10,000 acres statewide. Most of that grew in the hot central San Joaquin Valley. Despite demand from numerous wineries for grenache in cooler cli-

mates, grenache acreage in California has shrunk to 4,700 acres, with only a slightly larger amount in cooler climates. Compare that with the half-million acres of it in the rest of the world. I believe U.S. consumers have failed to understand grenache’s charms. One reason is that grenache is usually not a stand-alone grape. I was thrilled 15 years ago to learn that a society dedicated to grenache was formed to honor it. The International Grenache Association declared that the third Friday of every September would be considered International Grenache Day. The aim was to get more people to try grenache. Unfortunately, it never turned out perfectly. For a few years, I reminded people of Grenache Day, but it has been at least a decade since I’ve heard anyone acknowledge it. It may be partly because few people really understand grenache. Instead of the typical dense black nature of so many red wines, grenache is often pale and has less tannin than other red grapes. Grenache’s aromas

and flavors are fascinating, with pomegranate and cranberry replacing the nearly ubiquitous black cherry and plum of cabernet and merlot. Some people do give it the respect it deserves. Bonny Doon’s irrepressible Randall Grahm makes great use of it, notably in his excellent Le Cigare Volant red wine. Jason Haas’ Tablas Creek winery in Paso Robles stands behind it as well, making it an integral part of his red wine program. And Peter Mathis in Sonoma Valley has a web site that has a headline reading “I grow it. I make it,” and he adds, “Grenache is my passion... My grenache just received the highest medal awarded to an American wine at the 11th annual International Competition Grenache du Monde.” Steve Beckmen in California’s Central Coast grows some of the state’s best grenache. There are great plantings in Mendocino, Monterey and the Sierra Foothills as well. If you are looking for a wine that has lovely structure and early drinkability, grenache may be the perfect answer.

Wine of the Week: 2023 Bonny Doon Le Cigare Volant, Central Coast (\$18) — This beautiful red wine is 69 percent grenache with shiraz and cinsault adding depth. Randall Grahm notes, “Grenache grown in relatively cool sites in coastal California (can offer) the spicy, peppery quality

that we love so much.” This wine is juicy, silky and loaded with fruit. To find out more about Sonoma County resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2023 CREATORS.COM.

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SEE MENU

ST. PATRICK'S DAY



A grown up St. Patty's Day party!

By Olivia Monette
Special Writer

St. Patrick's Day celebrations can be both festive and refined with the right elements, proving that a thoughtfully designed table can capture the holiday spirit without relying on clichés. This beautifully arranged tablescape embraces the essence of the holiday with a fresh green-and-white color palette, classic patterns, and a mix of vintage and modern details that create an inviting setting for any adult or family gathering.

An embroidered tablecloth adorned with delicate shamrocks and gold detailing sets the foundation, adding an elegant Irish touch. Rich emerald green dinnerware with gold rims brings depth and sophistication to the table, perfectly complementing the holiday's signature color while maintaining a timeless appeal. Green gingham napkins introduce

a charming, rustic element, while gold flatware enhances the warmth and cohesiveness of the setting.

At the center of the table, a floral arrangement of lush white roses and vibrant green hydrangeas adds natural beauty and texture. Tall taper candles in antique silver holders provide a warm, flickering glow, creating an intimate and inviting atmosphere. A bottle of wine and a simple cheese board complete the setting, demonstrating how effortless entertaining can be with just a few carefully chosen details.

By focusing on a rich, sophisticated color scheme, timeless tableware, and thoughtfully curated accents, any gathering can feel elevated while still embracing the simple joy of the holiday.

Whether hosting a full Irish feast or an intimate celebratory toast among friends, this setup showers upscale warm and welcoming charm on the lucky guests.

TABLE FOR FIVE

The lovely embroidered shamrock tablecloth with delicate cut-outs, above, is ideal for this round party table. Dramatic deep green plates with gold rims accentuate the gold-tone flatware, while checkered linen napkins add a homey feel and classic candles create a warm ambiance (photos on opposite page.) At right, herbed cheese and crackers complement the evening's wine selection.



PHOTOS BY ANNE GRYZENIA



IRISH TOAST!

Cheers to your party with apropos adult beverages from Woods Wholesale Wine at 20787 Mack Ave. in Grosse Pointe Woods. From above left: Belle Glos Pinot Noir, legendary Silkie Blended Irish Whiskey, Wexford Irish Style Creme Ale and Five Farms single-batch Irish Cream Liqueur. Call (313) 882-5420 or visit woodswholesalewine.com where they are happy to advise.



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This cute towel and potholder duo from Small Favors makes the ideal hostess gift. The pretty design is seasonally on point and looks great year round. Small Favors is at 17112 Kercheval Ave. in Grosse Pointe. Visit shopsmallfavors.com or call (313) 887-1774.

HOLIDAY RECIPE

A real St. Patrick’s Day dinner: Classic shepherd’s or cottage pie

Shepherd’s Pie is a savory dish made of minced lamb that originated in England but also made the jump to Ireland, where it became a popular comfort food. Shepherd’s Pie is commonly mistaken for Cottage Pie, which is very similar, yet tends to use beef as the meat of choice.

Try this delicious version, courtesy of chef Alton Brown.

- Shepherd’s Pie**
Yield: 8 servings
- 1 1/2 lbs. russet potatoes
 - 2 T canola oil
 - 1 cup chopped onion
 - 2 carrots, peeled and finely diced
 - 2 cloves garlic, minced
 - 1 1/2 pounds ground lamb (or beef)
 - 1 3/4 tsp. kosher salt
 - 3/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper

- 2 tsp. tomato paste
- 2 tsp. chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 tsp. chopped fresh thyme
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 cup half-and-half
- 4 T unsalted butter
- 1 large egg yolk
- 1/2 cup corn kernels, fresh or frozen
- 1/2 cup English peas, fresh or frozen

DIRECTIONS:
Heat oven to 400 F.
Peel the potatoes and cut into 1/2-inch pieces. Put in a medium saucepan and cover with cold water, cover and bring to a boil. Uncover, drop the heat to maintain a simmer, and cook until tender, 10 to 15 minutes.
Heat the oil in an 11-inch saute pan over medium-high heat until simmering. Add the onion and carrots and saute 3 to 4 minutes.

Add the garlic and stir. Add the meat, salt and pepper, and cook until browned, approximately 3 minutes.
Sprinkle the meat with the flour, toss to coat, and continue to cook for another minute. Add the tomato paste, broth, Worcestershire sauce, rosemary, and thyme and stir. Bring to a boil, then decrease the heat to low, cover, and simmer slowly until the sauce is thickened slightly, 10 to 12 minutes.
Meanwhile, combine the half-and-half and butter in a microwave-safe container and microwave until warmed through, about 35 seconds.
Drain the potatoes and return them to the saucepan. Mash the potatoes, then add the hot half-and-half mixture, as well as the salt and pepper. Mash to smoothness, then stir in the egg yolk.
Add the corn and peas to the meat mixture and spread evenly in a 7-by-11-inch glass baking dish. Top with the mashed potatoes,

starting around the edges to create a seal to prevent the mixture from bubbling over, and smooth the top with a rubber spatula. Place on a half sheet pan lined with parchment paper on the middle rack of the oven and bake for 25 minutes, or just until the potatoes begin to brown. Move to a cooking rack and let rest for at least 15 minutes before serving.



BOOKWORM



Above, around the campfire.

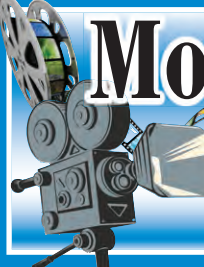


Left, Mildred played by Nell Fisher and Strawn played by Elijah Wood.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FIREFLY FILMS

Left, Elijah Wood as Strawn and Nell Fisher as Mildred, searching for the Canterbury Panther in the 2024 movie “Bookworm,” written by Toby Harvard and Ant Timpson and directed by Ant Timpson.



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”



MOVIE REVIEW
“Bookworm”
2024 - Not Rated
1 hr 43 min
★★★★☆

They rarely make family movies like this anymore, so I was delighted to discover this unique film. “Bookworm” harkens back to all-ages classics from the 1980s like “E.T.: The Extra-terrestrial” and “The Neverending Story.” Since it’s a product of New Zealand, it also has a distinctly Kiwi (AKA, whacky) sense of humor infused into it — not unlike a Wes Anderson film.

“Bookworm” is the latest from director Ant Timpson, who brought us the 2019 “Come to

Daddy” (which also happened to star Elijah Wood). It’s interesting to see Mr. Wood return to New Zealand, the land that made him a household name courtesy of the “Lord of the Rings” films. Here he shares the screen with the marvelous young actor Nell Fisher. Ms. Fisher is known for her performance in last year’s “Evil Dead Rise” and will be featured in the final season of Netflix’s popular series “Stranger Things.” That promises to vault her into the international spotlight.

Mildred (Fisher) is a precocious 11-year-old New Zealand girl, who has few friends mainly due to her obnoxious

personality. One morning her mother Zo (Morgana O’Reilly) electrocutes herself while making toast. The result: ing coma lands her in the hospital and Mildred into the care of a father she’s never met. Strawn (Wood) is a down-on-his luck magician, or “illusionist” as he likes to call himself. Mildred is the result of a one-night stand between the couple, who met in Las Vegas. Strawn does the responsible thing and flies to New Zealand to look after his daughter.

The two have absolutely nothing in common and this is just one aspect that makes it such a delightful film. Mildred is extremely smart and constantly reminds you about this. That she’s prickly and annoying

alone lets you know he’s been beaten down by life itself. He tells Mildred how he was thrown under the bus by his old buddy David Blaine, the famous magician. He’s been struggling ever since their falling out.

Mildred and her mom are just barely getting by financially. So she concocts a plan to garner a much-needed cash infusion. There’s a legendary creature known as the Canterbury Panther, roaming the wilds of New Zealand. It’s sort of a Yeti or Big Foot of the Southern Hemisphere. While the locals know about it, there haven’t been any photos or videos taken of the elusive beast. The enticement of a \$50,000 reward for proof convinces Mildred that she and her dad need to go on a camping trip,

Daniel Katz does an exemplary job capturing the breathtaking beauty of New Zealand. It’s guaranteed to put the country on your bucket list of places to visit, I kid you not. The dramatic mountains, lush forests and picturesque rivers and lakes are something to behold.

It’s against this gorgeous scenery that the story unfolds—and the perfect setting for father and daughter to open up to each other. They have several heart-to-heart talks where they let down their guards and learn about what makes them so vulnerable. Fisher and Wood have remarkable chemistry together and it’s this aspect that makes the film so memorable.

After they encounter the actual panther, and get some great video footage of it, they run into another couple out in the wild. The hikers Arnold (Michael Smiley) and Angela (Vanessa Stacey) seem friendly enough. They’re both quite chatty and quickly befriend Mildred and Strawn. Then, things take an unexpected turn. For obvious reasons, I won’t reveal any more of the story. But it will grab you and won’t let go until right at the end of the film. Let’s just say, a happy ending awaits.

I thought “Bookworm” was a refreshing take on the daddy-daughter road trip movie. It’s one of those rare films that tells the story in a straightforward manner with a heavy dose of humor—minus a bunch of unneeded action scenes and overdone CGI that

If you’re up for another excellent father/child adventure film set in New Zealand, I highly recommend “Hunt for the Wilderpeople” from Taika Waititi.

Note to parents: The film is unrated but I’d probably give it a PG-13.

Currently streaming for free with your library card on Kanopy and to rent on Apple TV and Amazon.

My rating system:

★ A real stinker. A movie that is so bad, you’re embarrassed to admit you’ve seen it, but you have to rate it nonetheless.

★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.

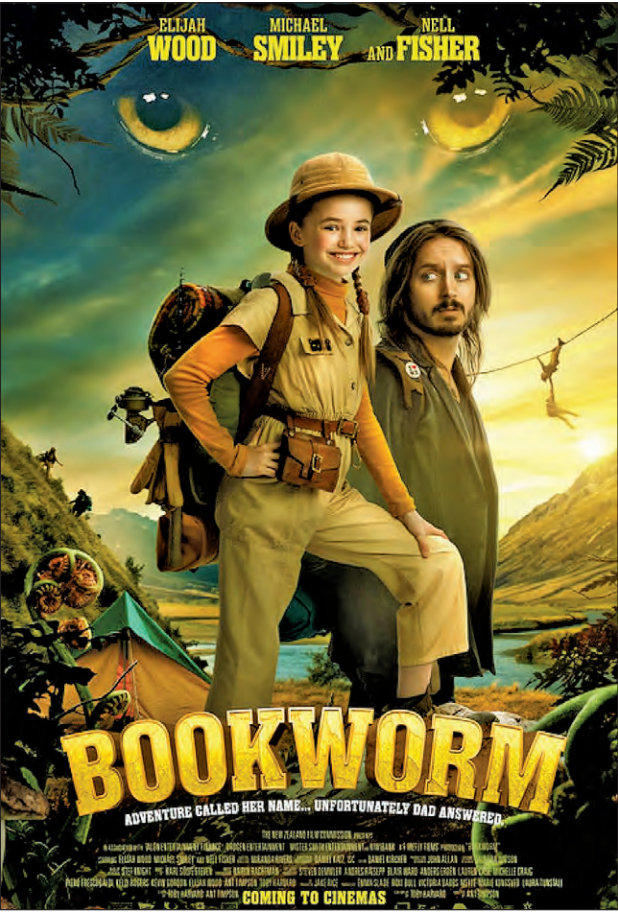
★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren’t any other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.

★★★★ One you’d recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you’d actually go out and buy it!

If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: dominmark@yahoo.com.

Also, if you’re looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: moviejunkie.mark.blogspot.com.



Movie poster.



On the go.



Strawn performs some magic.



Dad and daughter hit the trail.



Fellow hikers Arnold (Michael Smiley) and Angela (Vanessa Stacey) .

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Gemini.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, March 6, 2025:

You aspire for excellence and are tenacious about going after your goals. You are sensitive. You appreciate the arts. This year is the final year of a nine-year cycle, which means it's time for a reality check. Let go of people, places and things that have held you back.

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Tread carefully and be ready to rethink your ideas or a proposal to someone. Don't jump at the first thing or be too quick to agree. And don't bite off more than you can chew. Today it's better to be more cautious and take it easy. Tonight: Cooperate.

♉ TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

When shopping today or discussing financial negotiations, you'll feel optimistic, and yet at the same time you might have second thoughts. Admittedly, two opposing influences are at play. To be safe, be conservative. An older friend or a member of a group might have advice. Hmmm. Tonight: Save your money.

♊ GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

Today the Moon is in your sign, which gives you a bit of luck — an edge over all the other signs. Furthermore, the Moon is close to lucky Jupiter! But it's also at odds with Saturn, which is a complication. Yes, what the large print giveth, the small print taketh away. Therefore, don't push your luck. Tonight: You're strong.

♋ CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Avoid controversial subjects like politics, religion and racial issues. They might be depressing. (Don't even go there.) However, fiery Mars is in your sign, moving forward with energy and purpose, and this will boost your confidence. Do what you can. Tonight: Solitude.

♌ LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Relations with friends and members of groups are hit and miss today. You might enjoy popularity and relaxing good times with them. On the other hand (you have different rings), someone might be critical of you or take financial advantage of you. That's no fun. Be careful. Tonight: Advice?

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You're high-viz today, which means people notice you more than usual. Do be aware of this. Who wants a public argument? I mention this because a public argument is in the realm of possibility since dealings with partners, spouses and close friends could be abrasive. Step lightly. Tonight: Show respect.

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Steer clear of work-related disputes today or controversies related to politics, religion, foreign countries or travel. These conflicts might easily arise, no question. However, you don't have to take the bait. Nevertheless, being a skilled debater, you might. Tonight: Explore!

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Arguments about shared property or the shared cost of a social occasion or something to do with sports or the maintenance and educa-

tion of your kids might arise today. In one way, you feel optimistic about things, but in another way, you don't. Tonight: Check your finances.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Disagreements with family members, especially parents or older relatives, might take place today. Or you might have challenges talking to a spouse or a partner. This is because people are inclined to be critical and judgmental today. (Grrr.) Don't be one of them. Tonight: Courtesy.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You might fall into worry mode today, which is easy to do, because in one way, things look optimistic. But in another way, they don't. Remember the old adage about worry: "Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do but gets you nowhere." Tonight: Work.

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Be conservative when it comes to spending money today or making financial choices. You'll be happier later if you give everything a sober, second thought. Something might look better than it is. Either way, this is a poor day to go overboard in any way. Play it safe. Tonight: Socialize.

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Family conversations will be important to you today. Listen and be as optimistic as you can, even if someone is hanging black crepe paper everywhere. This is just a temporary dark cloud on your horizon. Tonight: Relax.

BORN TODAY
Basketball legend Shaquille O'Neal (1972), actress Connie Britton (1967), actor Shaun Evans (1980).



Find 10 Differences



Americanisms



“To achieve great things, two things are needed: a plan and not quite enough time.”
— Leonard Bernstein

Contract Bridge

DOUBLE-DUMMY PROBLEM

Contract — Four Spades by South.
Opening lead — queen of hearts.

NORTH

♠ J 10 9 8 7
♥ A 3
♦ 9 8 7
♣ A 5 4

WEST

♠ 6 5 4
♥ Q J 10 8 7 6 5 4
♦ Q
♣ Q

EAST

♠ —
♥ 9
♦ K J 10 6 3 2
♣ K J 10 6 3 2

SOUTH

♠ A K Q 3 2
♥ K 2
♦ A 5 4
♣ 9 8 7

It is an ancient privilege -- accorded to kibitzers and irate partners alike -- to point out, after the play is completed, how declarer should have played the hand he has just finished butchering.

In fact, it is said that the right to criticize declarer and call attention to his inadequacies — after seeing all 52 cards, of course — has been standard practice for just about as long as the

game itself has existed.

All of which leads us to this case where kibitzer, butcher and any and all other comers are challenged to make 10 tricks with spades as trump. It is strictly a double-dummy proposition, which means you can look at all four hands and take advantage of everything you see. Best defense is, of course, assumed.

To get right to the heart of the matter, to make the contract you must win the opening heart lead with the ace and play your king on it! This unusual play — by which you voluntarily increase your four obvious losers to five — permits the contract to be made. Without it, you are sure to go down.

After the opening trick, you draw three rounds of trump, cash your minor-suit aces, then put West back on lead with a heart. You also let him win the next two heart leads, discarding two diamonds from dummy and two clubs from your hand. You then claim the balance, since you can ruff two diamonds in dummy and two clubs in your hand. That's all there is to it!

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



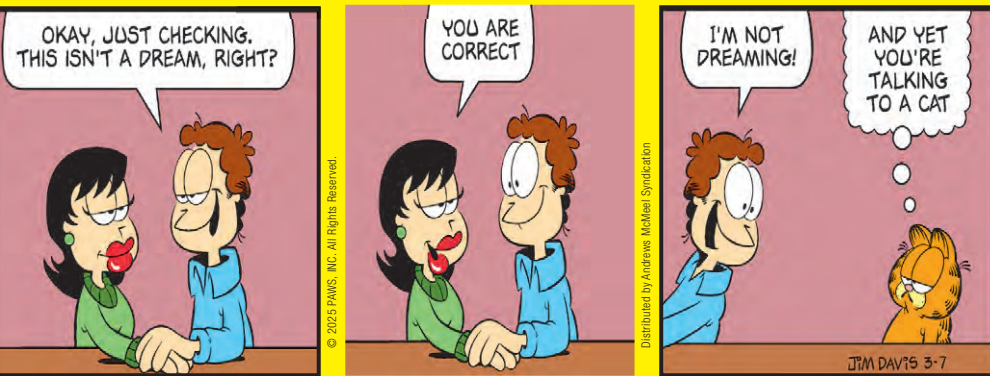
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Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

Bill and Jeff Keane

“Sing some more, Daddy! Mommy’s ladies are in the living room and they’re all clapping!”

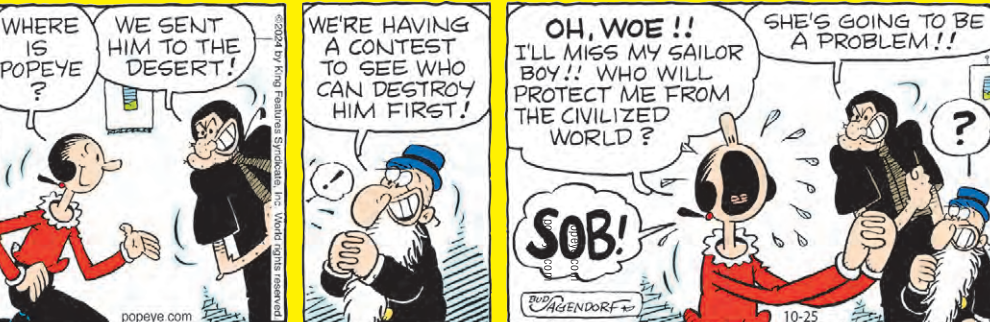
Garfield

Jim Davis



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



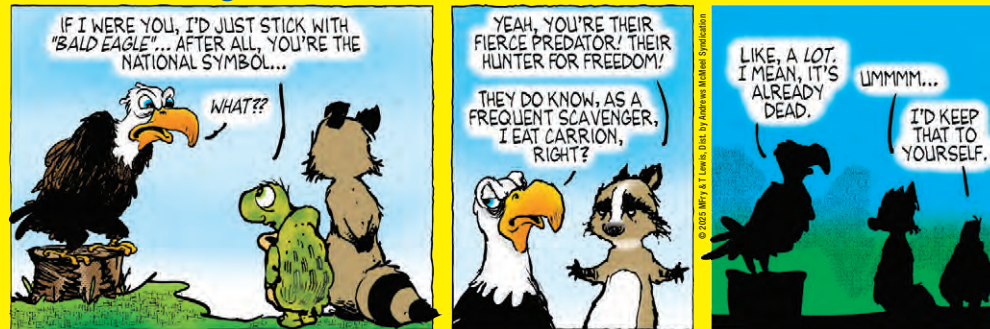
Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



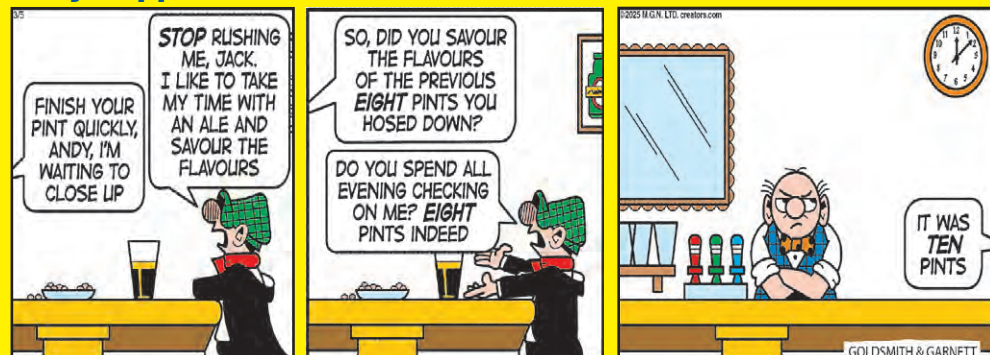
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



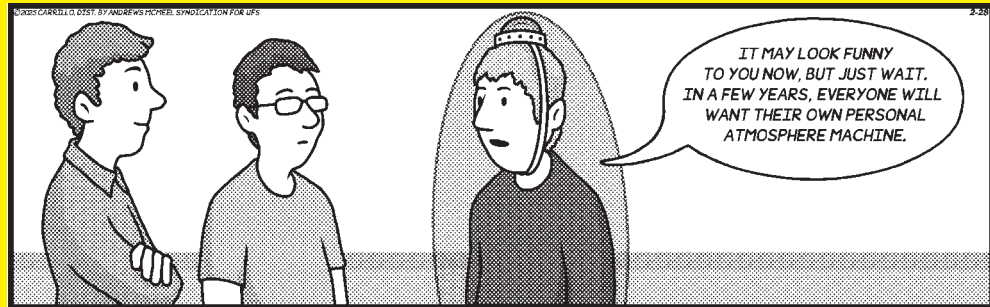
Wizard of Id

Created by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart. Currently by Mason Mastroianni



F Minus

Tony Carrilo

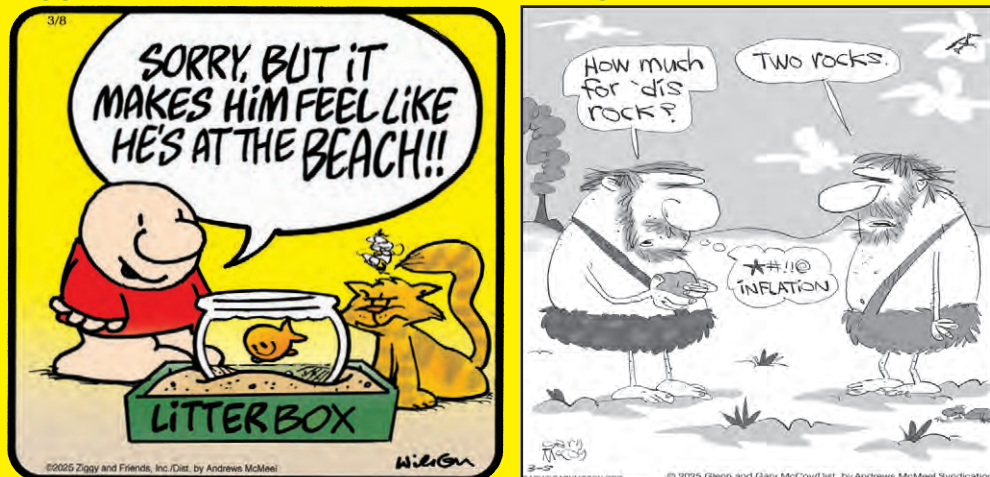


Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

		4	3		2	7	9		
	9			6	8				
				9		2			
		8	9						1
				3					
6					4	5			
	3			8					
			6	2				1	
	8	9	1		5	6			

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous puzzle solution

1	9	7	6	3	5	8	2	4	
3	4	8	7	9	2	1	6	5	
6	5	2	1	4	8	7	3	9	
4	6	9	8	7	1	2	5	3	
7	8	5	2	6	3	9	4	1	
2	1	3	4	5	9	6	8	7	
8	3	1	5	2	7	4	9	6	
9	2	4	3	1	6	5	7	8	
5	7	6	9	8	4	3	1	2	

3/06

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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2/27 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg March 6, 2025

ACROSS

- Summer hummers: Abbr.
- Toga party venue
- A bit of a gamble
- Mauna _____ (active volcano)
- Was on TV
- Best effort, to a coach
- “_____ About Eve” (Bette Davis film)
- “Squarespace purchases
- Viscous goo
- Dust bunny trapper, familiarly
- Significant stretch of time
- “The next world
- Competed in the last leg of a triathlon
- Modern Queen vocalist Lambert
- Black waterbird
- Thick type
- “Duck Hunt” platform, in brief
- Oracle
- Demon
- “High school band?
- Oak dropping
- Eternity: Var.
- Atty.’s org.
- Online auctioneer
- “A Visit From the Goon Squad” author Jennifer

- Alum
- Egyptian cobra
- “Make many demands of Tater morsel
- Polynesian taro dish
- _____ Allan
- Poe
- Realistic, or the first word in each starred clue’s answer?
- “Ceci n’est pas _____ pipe”
- Stay away from
- Fabric units
- _____ Vegas
- Aces
- Manages, as the bar
- Empty
- Beast of burden

DOWN

- _____ Malamute
- Ram into each other
- California city near Monterey
- Stoned
- 2016 Summer Olympics site
- Elbow’s limb
- Earl Grey, e.g.
- Do ballet, say
- French Open winner
- Swiatek
- Actress Diaz
- _____ City (“Wicked” setting)
- Improv mantra

- Clump of turf on the green
- Hanoi’s home, familiarly
- Studio with a lion mascot
- Orca’s habitat
- Homer’s watering hole
- Small bouquet worn at a formal
- What pesky dogs do by the dinner table
- Camera type, in short
- Shrek’s beloved
- Road trip lodging
- Shy in a cutesy way
- Backside
- Free from blame
- Text on a meme
- Leafy green

- Fruits that monkeys eat
- Do something about
- Really bothers
- Teach morals to
- Shiva or Vishnu, e.g.
- Biased columns in the paper
- Fictional joey
- Witherspoon of “Big Little Lies”
- El _____ (Spanish hero)
- Place to find solutions?
- Long-term investment type
- Only POTUS to serve more than two terms

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

C	I	A	I	M	P	E	L	T	R	E	E				
A	N	T	C	O	U	P	E	S	H	O	N	K			
C	O	A	C	H	P	R	I	M	E	R	A	V	E		
H	I	L	O				C	O	W	E	D	Y	S		
E	L	L	I	P	S	E		N	U	D	E	S			
O	R	B		T	A	C	O		B	A	D	G	E		
R	O	O	T	P	O	U	C	H		R	E	E	D		
A	M	O	R	E		S	A	B		S	S	E			
L	A	K	E	S		S	U	P	E	R	I	O	R		
			S	A	L	V	O		T	R	O	O	P	E	R
T	H	A	T		R	T	E		L	A	S	H			
H	O	L	I		A	I	R		Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y
E	P	E	E		Y	O	G	U	R	T		R	E	M	
M	E	S	S		N	O	O	N	E		S	E	E		

2/27 Solution

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3/6

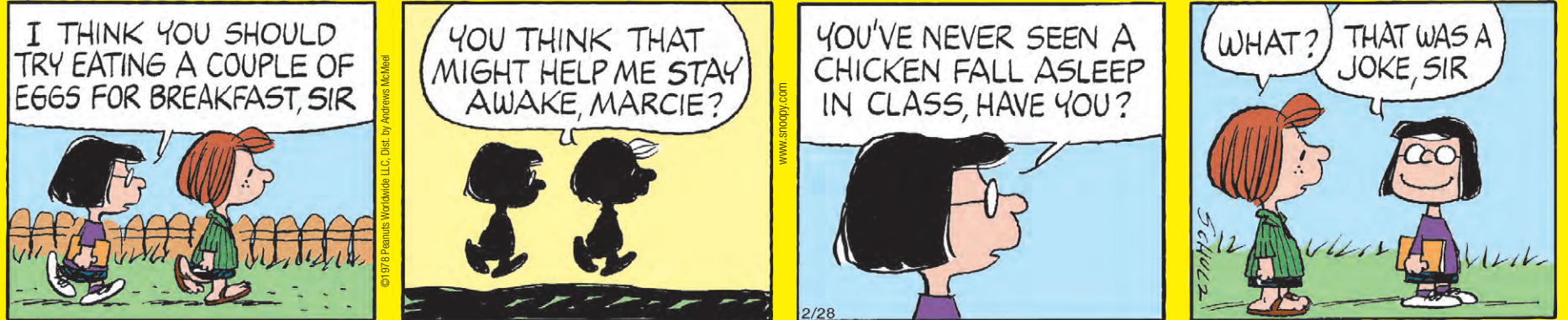
Levelheaded by Adam Simpson

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12
13				14				15		16			
17				18					19				
20			21					22				23	
24					25	26	27					28	
29					30					31			
32				33					34	35			
			36					37					
	38	39					40				41	42	43
44						45				46			
47				48	49					50			
51				52						53			
54			55				56	57	58			59	
60						61						62	
63							64					65	

Comics

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



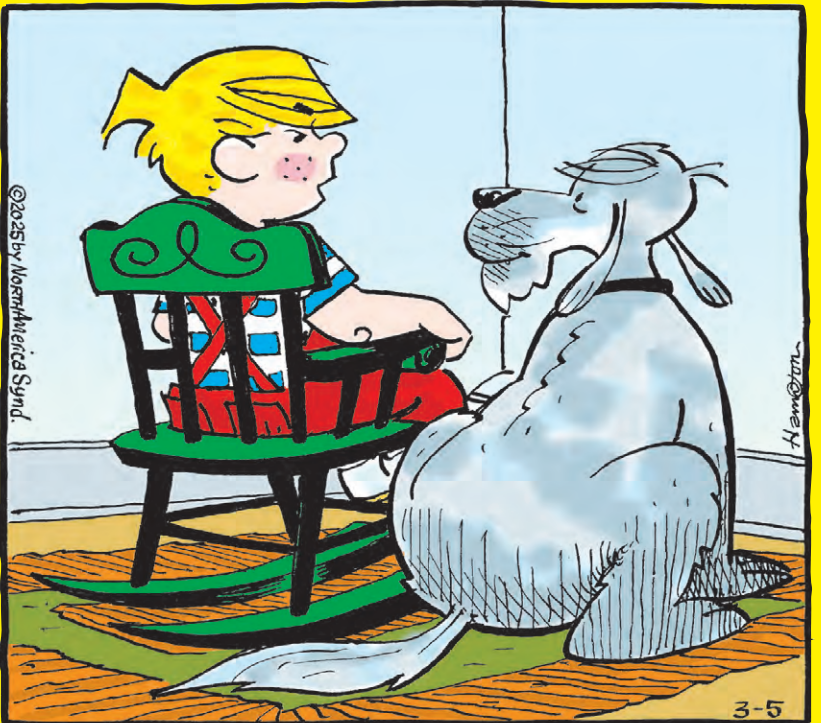
Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



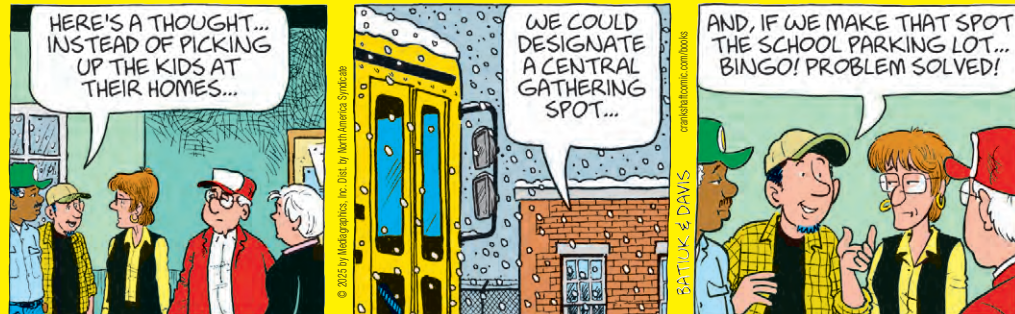
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



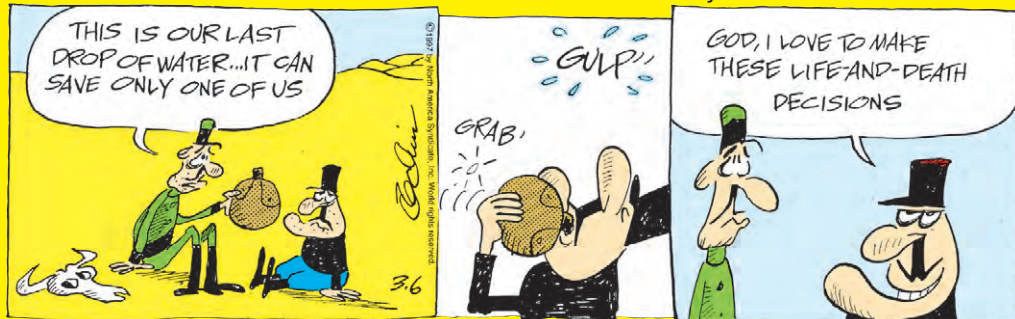
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



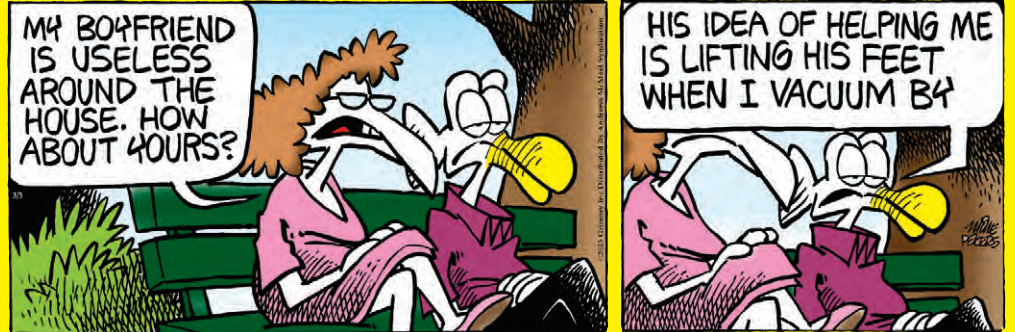
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



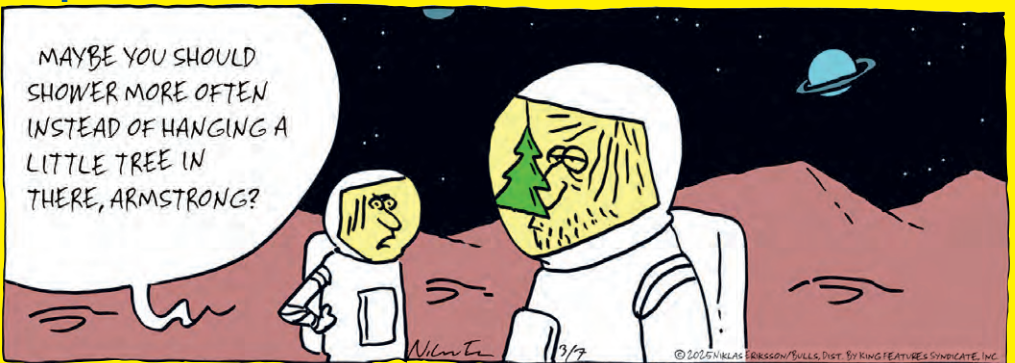
Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



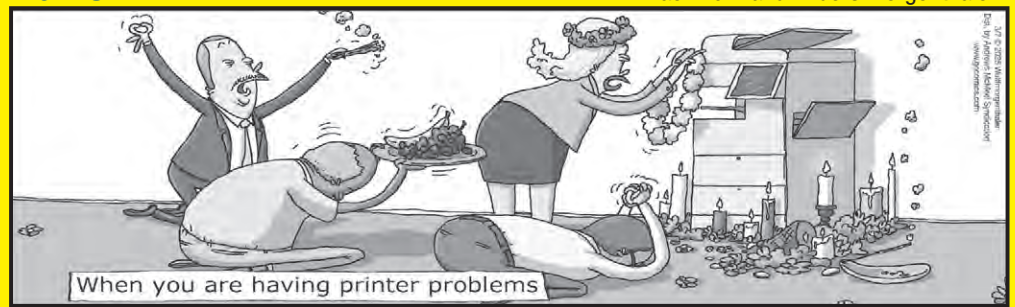
B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumbo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayne



The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Close To Home

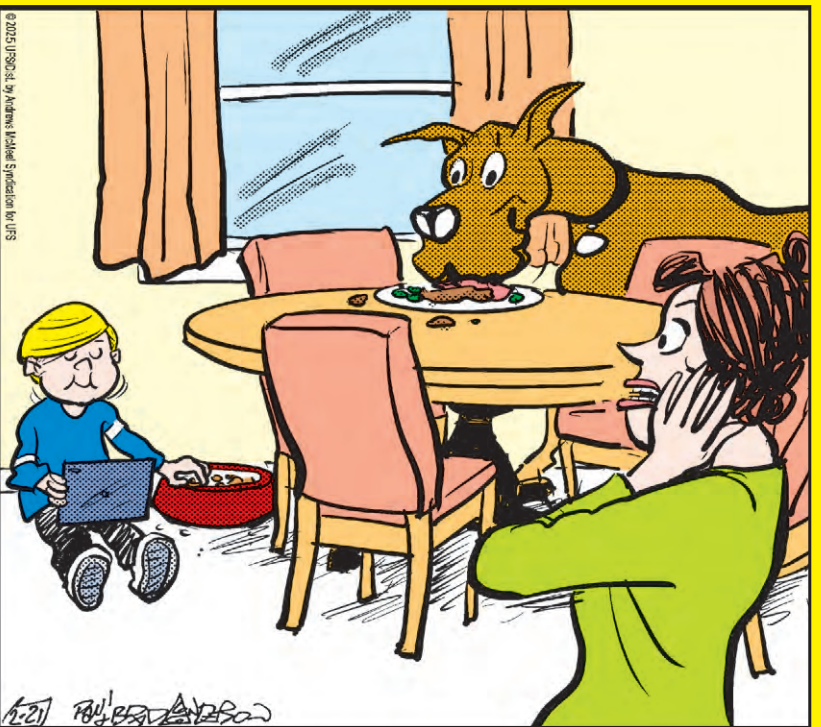
John McPherson



"That was a good idea of yours to put some padding up there."

Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson





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THE WORLD-FAMOUS JANE GOODALL

Dr. Jane Goodall was the first person to study chimpanzees in the wild! She learned many new things about chimpanzees.

“When I was 10 years old and I said ...

I want to go to Africa and write books about animals!



... everybody laughed at me. Girls couldn't dream of doing that.”

Jane kept dreaming. And then worked hard to make her dream come true.

It All Started with Reading

Jane loved to read. Two books Jane read as a child led her to dream of going to Africa. What are the names of these books? Circle every other letter.

D O R W D L O N O P
L S I V T Y T N L M E

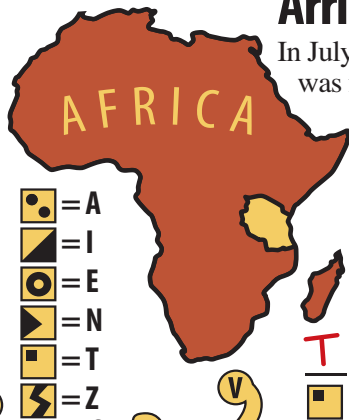
D R.

T B A K R L Z
J A W N C

T

Look for these books in your local library and discover what young Jane found so interesting about them.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple written directions.



Arriving in Africa

In July 1960, at the age of 26, Jane was finally able to travel to Africa. She got a job studying chimpanzees in the country highlighted on the map.

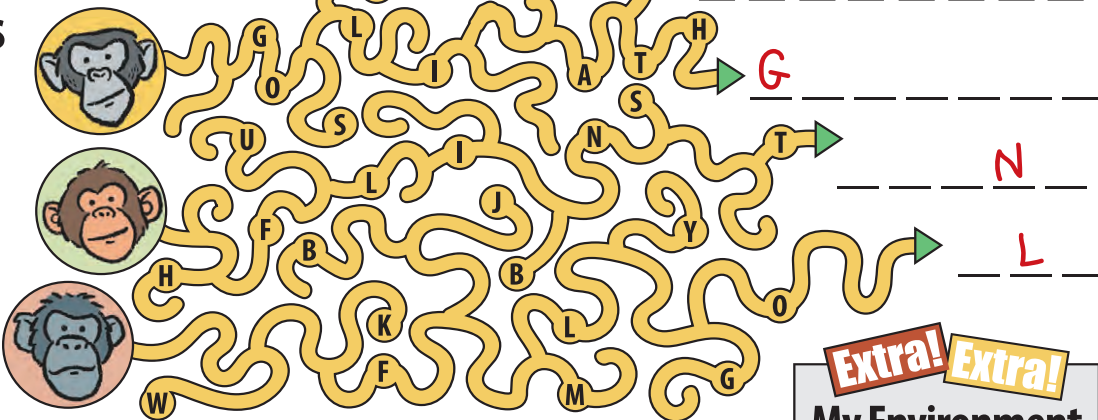
Use the code to discover the country's name.



Naming the Animals

Before Jane, chimps were each given a number. Jane was different. She gave the chimps names based on their appearance or personalities. For example, she named the chimpanzee that first approached her David Greybeard because he had a gray chin.

Use the letters found on each correct path to discover the name Jane gave each chimpanzee.



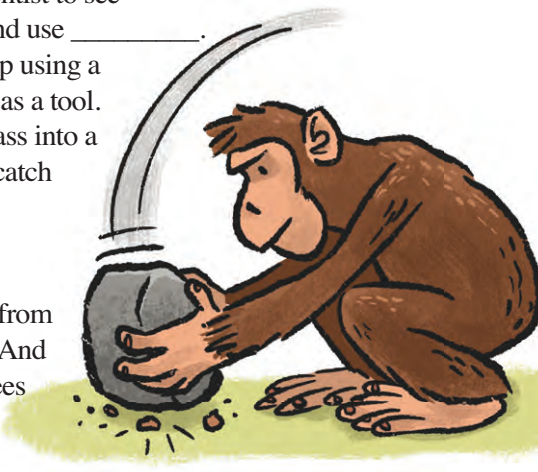
Jane's Discovery

Replace the missing words.

REMOVE
BLADE
HOLE
TOOLS
SAW

Jane was the first scientist to see chimpanzees make and use _____.
Jane observed a chimp using a _____ of grass as a tool.
The chimp put the grass into a termite _____ to catch termites to eat.

She also saw chimps _____ leaves from twigs to make a tool. And she _____ chimpanzees use rocks to crack open nuts.



Standards Link: Language Arts: Read a variety of genres (biography).

Extra! Extra! My Environment Scavenger Hunt

Look through the newspaper to find a picture or word:

- Of a tree or plant found in your community
- That describes the weather today
- Of a place where you can find nature in your community
- Of an animal you can find in your community

Standards Link: Science: There are different things living in different areas; identify weather.

Kid Scoop Together

What Do You Know?

Do you know the answers to these questions? If not, find them on today's Kid Scoop® page!

1. Where did Jane dream of going when she was a child?

2. What is the name of Jane's favorite toy?

3. What did Jane see chimpanzees use?

4. What did chimpanzees use rocks for?

5. Name one of the books Jane love to read as a child.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Recall answers in text.

Follow Dr. Jane Goodall



Dr. Jane Goodall has spent much of her later years protecting chimpanzees and preserving the habitats of animals throughout the world.

She believes that everybody has the power to build a better world. The Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots program helps young people care for others and the planet. With a parent, visit rootsandshoots.org.

Standards Link: Science: Understand different life forms thrive in different habitats.

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **OBSERVE**

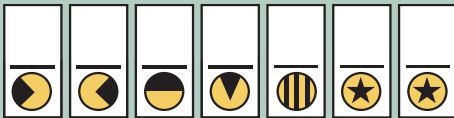
The noun **observe** means to watch closely.

Jane Goodall spent years **observing** chimpanzees in their native environment.

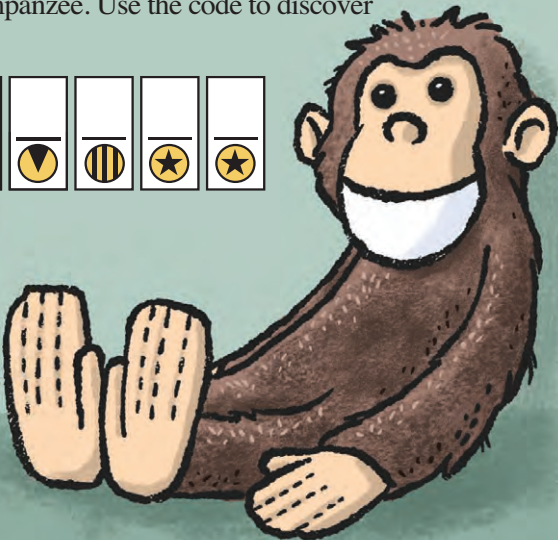
Try to use the word **observe** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

When Jane was young, she had a favorite toy. It was a stuffed chimpanzee. Use the code to discover this toy's name.



● = B
★ = E
◐ = I
◑ = J
◒ = L
◓ = U



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

CHILD
CHIMPS
DREAM
EAT
FIRST
GREY
NEW
NUMBER
ROCKS
SEE
TOOL
TRAVEL
TREE
TRUE
WILD

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

E R T A E M Q M I V
L D O Z T R A V E L
I L C C W O Y E T A
C I N I K L O D R Y
G H X E V S W L E D
R C I J W E E I B E
E K P M B E U W M E
Y Z L N P K R T U R
W O F I R S T H N T

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Observation Practice

Select a newspaper photo. Study the photo for one minute. In your mind, make a list of all the details you can observe in the photo. After one minute, cover the photo and write down all the details you remember.

Standards Link: Science: Make careful observations.



What did the chimpanzee learn in school?

ANSWER: The Ape B.C.

Write On!

A Woman I Admire

Who is a woman you admire? Explain what you admire about her.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Write descriptively using supporting details.

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South boys swim continues historic streak with 27th consecutive MAC Red title

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Twenty-seven. That's the number of seasons in a row the Grosse Pointe South boys varsity swim and dive has won the MAC Red Division championship. The Blue Devils captured yet another title Saturday, March 1, hosting the league meet and finishing with a total of 513 points, nearly 200 points ahead of second-place Lakeview.

"The boys as a whole really stepped up and swam really well," South boys swim and dive coach John Fodell, who was a swimmer on the Blue Devil team 27 years ago that began the streak, said. "... (We) had a lot of seniors step up and everyone all the way down to freshman did because we had a lot of freshmen get top-eight finishes. They're coming together as a team and swam well. We didn't have the studs like some of the other



PHOTO BY HEIDI BRYAN

The Grosse Pointe South varsity boys swim and dive team won the MAC Red Division championship on Saturday, March 1, marking 27 consecutive seasons as league champions.

teams, but we did it together as a team." Helping lead the way

in South's victory was a first-place finish by the 200 medley relay team

of Owen Mulcahy, Thomas Brieden, Everett Wood and Brady

Bond, with the team finishing with a time of 1:41.14. Bond had one

of the team's strongest days overall as he also took first place in the 100 freestyle and finished fourth in the 50 freestyle.

A plethora of South swimmers earned points in various events with high finishes. Duncan Richards finished third in the 500 freestyle and fourth in the 200 freestyle. Mulcahy took second in the 200 IM and was fourth in the 100 backstroke. Brieden earned third place in both the 100 fly and 100 breaststroke.

Lucas Curtis was fourth in the 500 freestyle, while Christian Azoury took fourth place in the 100 IM. Nadeem Haurani earned a top-five finish by earning fifth place in the 100 freestyle. Haurani, along with Wood, Jack Finazzo and Henry Doyle took fourth place in the 400 medley relay. Joseph Fodell also captured a top-five mark by finishing in

See SWIM, page 4D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Welsh builds impressive performance on and off the ice for Liggett girls hockey

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

When Avery Welsh first joined the varsity girls hockey team at University Liggett School a few years ago, she knew there was a

standard she had to play up to. Now, at the end of her junior season with the team, Welsh has established herself as one of the top players on the ice for the Knights. It all goes back to what she learned in her early days

with the team from the players who came before her.

"When I was coming in as a freshman, I was only about 13 years old and I was so excited to be playing up with all of these great players,"

what gave me confidence. Players like Sofie Ancona and all those other girls helped me grow as a player."

Welsh scored 18 goals this season, the second most on the team for Liggett, and led the team

however, created incredible chemistry Welsh feels with her teammates and helps them know each other's strengths on the ice and where they are going to be.

"Our teammates are all constantly relying on one another," she said. "My teammates are what have made my goals possible. Especially with a short bench, every single person is an asset to the team. We play together. We don't play as individuals and that is what's helped my goals happen. ... This team is like my family. I've grown up with most of these girls and there are a few that I've met along the way that, especially with the small team we have, we've grown so close together. We're just by each other's side every step of the way and that's what makes Liggett hockey so special."

Some of the teammates Welsh feels the most chemistry with on the ice are the ones who have been with her since she was a freshman. They may have started when the program was full of veterans who set a high standard of championship success, but now it is Welsh's turn to help lead the Knights back to the top of the mountain.

Liggett's quest for a state championship this season ended Saturday, March 1, with a 5-3 loss to Orchard Lake St. Mary's in the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League playoffs.

See ATHLETE, page 4D



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

Avery Welsh, a junior at Liggett, joined the girls varsity hockey program as a freshman.

'We play together. We don't play as individuals and that is what's helped my goals happen. ... This team is like my family.'

Avery Welsh, Junior, University Liggett Girls Hockey

Welsh said. "I would read about these players in the news and the Liggett girls hockey program and all of the success and championships they won. I thought to myself that I have to come with my 'A' game. ... I knew that I had this team with me every step of the way that would support me and that's

with 16 assists. Her 34 points in 24 games tied her with teammate Stella Smiatcz for the most on the Knights.

Welsh also was one of five Liggett players this season who averaged at least one point per game — an impressive feat for a team with a smaller roster than usual.

That small roster,

Wonderful Welsh

- Scored 18 goals and led team with 16 assists
- 34 points in 24 games tied for team lead on ULS girls hockey this season
- Member of varsity field hockey, girls ice hockey and girls lacrosse teams at ULS

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Wrestlers finish season at Ford Field for individual state finals

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The varsity wrestling season had its grand finale Friday, Feb. 28, and Saturday, March 1, with the MHSAA Individual Wrestling State Finals at Ford Field. Three wrestlers — Wyatt Hepner and Lex Willson from Grosse Pointe South and Grady Mead from Grosse Pointe North — represented the Pointes in the competition. While none of them emerged as state champions, Hepner and Willson both ended the weekend by earning All-State status.

Hepner, who won the 2024 Division 1 state championship at 138 pounds, entered the finals with high expectations to compete for the Division 1 state title at 150 pounds. A loss in the quarterfinals, however,

sent Hepner to the consolation bracket, but he was able to rally and make the podium in third place for the weight class.

“Taking third in the state is a great accomplishment in itself,” South wrestling coach Dave Salazar said. “... I know Wyatt had higher expectations for himself to at least make it to the finals and get another shot at that championship. At the end of the day, it shows a lot about his character. Everybody has their ups and downs in the sport. ... It still, at the end of the day, cements him by far as the best wrestler in Grosse Pointe South history. He has the most wins. He has the most accolades at the state tournament being a two-time finalist and a one-time champion and placing third and sev-



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

South’s Wyatt Hepner establishes a hold on Mohammed Elhawli from Dearborn Heights Crestwood. Hepner would go on to finish in third place in Division 1 at 150 pounds at the state finals.



ent in those other years.”

Hepner won his first-round match over Mohammed Elhawli from Dearborn Heights Crestwood by fall. That moved him on to the quarterfinals, where he lost by decision 7-2 to Davison’s Julius Pacheco.

After the loss, Hepner entered the consolation bracket. He won his first match by technical fall over Demetrious Thomas from Rochester Adams. Another win over Detroit Catholic Central’s Alexander Buskirk sent Hepner to the consolation semifinals. Hepner won that match by decision 7-1 against Kaden Tindall of Brighton to earn his spot in the third-place match. He won third place by defeating Clarkston’s Nathaniel Carter by 10-4 decision.

Hepner’s teammate Willson also had a long battle through the consolation bracket to end

up with All-State status. Willson lost his opening-round match at 190 pounds by decision 6-4 to Sullivan Haas from Brighton.

In the consolation bracket, Willson won his first match by technical fall over Midland Dow’s Lukus Studebaker. He then earned a 4-1 decision win over Wyandotte Roosevelt’s Steven Andreone in the second consolation round before losing his third-round consolation match to Logan Hammingh from Rockford. Willson ultimately secured his All-State status with a seventh-place match

win by a 9-4 decision against Dylan Perkins from Howell.

“It’s a testament to the type of competitor he is at anything he does,” Salazar said about Willson. “... He’s always out there competing at the highest level in anything that he does. I’m super proud of him.”

Mead represented North at the state finals in Division 2 at 150 pounds. In his first-round match, Mead lost by fall to Trevor Boone from Lowell. That moved him to the consolation bracket, where he lost his first match to Blake Haliburda from Carleton Airport.



South senior Lex Willson earned All-State status at last weekend’s state finals by finishing in seventh place in Division 1 at 190 pounds.

Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, A Michigan City
2025 BOARD OF REVIEW SESSIONS
The Assessments for the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores in Wayne and Macomb County has been completed for 2025. The Board of Review will hear petitions on the following dates:
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 1:00 P.M.
MONDAY, MARCH 10TH
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
795 LAKE SHORE RD.
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025
1:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
(2nd Floor Meeting Room)
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
The Board will meet in the Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Building (first floor), 795 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores. All property owners wishing to appeal their assessments must make an appointment or file a write in appeal. Either appeal method must be accompanied by the petition form (L-4035) provided by the state of Michigan (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/l4035f_2658_7.pdf). Appointments may be made by calling 881-6565. **Petitions by mail must be received by the Board PRIOR to the last session (3/17/25) so they may be reviewed in a timely manner.** You may call 881-6565 for an appointment.
If there are any questions, please contact the Assessor’s Office at 313.881.6565 or email pbierzynski@gpshoresmi.gov.
Published: Grosse Pointe News: 2/20/25, 2/27/25, 3/6/25

North’s Grady Mead grapples against his first-round opponent Trevor Boone from Lowell at the Division 2 state finals at Ford Field on Feb. 28.

City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission, under the provisions of Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 as amended, and Grosse Pointe Woods City Code of 2022 Chapter 50, Article 7, Section 50-7.15, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall in the Council Chamber/Courtroom (located at 20025 Mack Plaza Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236) to consider an amendment to the zoning ordinance to prohibit short term rentals in all zoning districts with new Ordinance text added to Section 50-2.2 (Definitions) and Section 50-4 (Use Standards).
All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given opportunity for public comment. The public may appear in person or be represented by counsel. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk’s Office, up to close of business preceding the hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services at the meeting should contact the Grosse Pointe Woods Clerk’s Office at 313-343-2440 seven days prior to the meeting. The agenda and pertinent documents will be available at www.gpwmj.us.
For additional project information, contact the Building and Planning Department at 313-343-2426 or e-mail building@gpwmj.us.
Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk
G.P.N.:03/06/25

City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan
PUBLIC NOTICE
2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE Board of Review for the City of Grosse Pointe Woods will meet in the Conference Room at 20025 Mack Plaza Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan on the following dates and times for the purpose of reviewing the assessment roll:

Meeting dates are as follows:			
Date	Day	Appointment Time	Petition
March 11, 2025	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Organizational Meeting
March 11, 2025	Tuesday	9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	
March 18, 2025	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	
March 25, 2025	Tuesday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	

Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 2025 Board of Review Petitions are required and must be submitted to the Assessor’s Office prior to your appointment. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in-person before the Board of Review is end of day Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

Letter appeals are to be accompanied by a completed Form 618 Petition to Board of Review L-4035. The Petition is available at www.michigan.gov/treasury - select Search Treasury - Forms [618]. Petitioner agents must submit, for each parcel individually, current letters with signatures from your client properly authorizing you to appear for the property owner.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper. All board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the “Open Meetings Act.” If you have any questions please contact the Assessor’s Office at 313.343.2452

G.P.N.: Publishing Dates 2/20/25, 2/27/25, 3/6/25
Eric Dunlap
City Assessor

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW DATES
The City of Harper Woods 2025 Board of Review will conduct hearings on the following dates for appeals from citizens regarding the 2025 assessment, at City Hall located at 19617 Harper Ave. Harper Woods MI 48225. All appeals are by appointment and can be in-person or submitted in writing. Letters of appeal must be received by March 24, 2025, by 3:00 p.m. Postmarks are not accepted.
To schedule an appointment, please call the Assessor’s Office during office hours on Wednesday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Phone (313) 343-2527
Appointment Dates for Hearing:

Monday	March 10, 2025	1:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Monday	March 24, 2025	9:00 am to 3:00 pm

All people protesting their assessment must complete a petition (form 618) L-4035 which can be obtained at City Hall, provided to you at your appointment, or the city website: harperwoodscity.org
The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural	50.00%
Commercial	48.71%
Industrial	49.68%
Residential	46.34%
Timber-Cutover	50.00%
Developmental	50.00%
Personal Property	50.00%

Published: GPN, Feb. 20, Feb. 27, & Mar. 6, 2025
City of Harper Woods
Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

South, North fall in boys basketball district tournament

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Last week’s boys’ basketball Division 1 district tournament action thrilled fans eager to experience the excitement of playoff basketball. The semifinals, featuring Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South, delivered plenty of thrills, including a last-minute victory for the Norsemen. However, the district final marked the end of the boys’ hoops season for the Pointes.

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils, playing on their home court in the district tournament, faced Detroit Martin Luther King Jr. Wednesday, Feb. 26, in the district semifinals. South started a bit slow but managed to stay neck and neck with the Crusaders until the end, as King prevailed in the end 43-39.
“I couldn’t have asked for anything more from my players,” South boys basketball head coach Stephen Benard said. “They played hard and they executed. ... We were trying to win the game 38-36, and we got 39 points. We spotted them six points at the beginning of the game and hats off to them.”
The Crusaders opened the game on a run that put them ahead early. South’s offense woke up

later in the first quarter and closed the gap a bit, trailing 12-7 after the first eight minutes.
The Blue Devils then scored only four points in the entire second quarter, but points were at a premium overall the entire game. King expanded its lead a bit, but also had trouble scoring before the break and led on the scoreboard 19-11 as the teams headed to the locker room.
South looked rejuvenated in the second half and began to put pressure on the Crusaders. The Blue Devils outscored King 11-7 in the third quarter and narrowed the deficit to just four points heading into the final frame, trailing 26-22.
The fourth quarter was a whirlwind as South continued to keep things close. The Blue Devils pulled within a single possession a few times in the final quarter and battled with the Crusaders until time ran out and King was still victorious by four points.
Kooper Richards led South with 15 points in the loss. Senior Adam Czarnik also reached double digits with 13 points.
The loss ended the season for South with a record of 9-15. The winter had plenty of ups and downs for the Blue Devils as the team struggled

through injuries and losing streaks. With a relatively young team that will see plenty of players returning next year, the experience some Blue Devils gained this season could prove invaluable for the program going forward.
“It was a gauntlet of every single example of a teaching moment that could come up for a younger player happened,” Benard said. “... The kids had to learn about getting away from our defense and working on our offense because we couldn’t score the ball. ... They had to learn how to be really good in the summer, be really good to start the season, lose some close games they shouldn’t have lost and go into a long losing streak where we had to figure out how to score points, then got away from that and tried some different lineups. Along the way, the kids never stopped competing and they were super coachable.”
Grosse Pointe North
After a blowout victory over Detroit Western International in the opening round of the district tournament Monday, Feb. 24, the Norsemen advanced to the district semifinals. North was matched up against Detroit Cass Tech Wednesday, Feb. 26, and achieved a thrilling vic-



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

Dequan Howell brings the ball up the court and sets up a play for the Norsemen in the district championship game against Detroit Martin Luther King Jr. on Friday, Feb. 28.

tory thanks to a shot in the final seconds by senior R.J. Williams to propel the Norsemen over the Technicians 54-53.
“That game was a great high school basketball game,” North boys basketball head coach Rob Johnson said. “We were down by eight at halftime, but we didn’t really flinch though. ... Our experience in the fourth quarter especially showed because we knew they had some young guards. To be able to win that game and how we did it with coming back in the fourth quarter making clutch basket after clutch basket, it just showed the resilience of this group.”
North trailed Cass Tech by two points, 13-11, at the end of the first quarter. However, the Technicians pulled away a bit more before halftime to lead 29-21 going into the locker room.
The second half was when the fireworks began to go off. North pulled closer and a three-pointer by Ben Dragich late in the third quarter helped the Norsemen cut the score to 36-32 going into the final eight minutes.
North and Cass Tech traded blows in the fourth quarter when the game came down to the wire. Dequan Howell, who ended up leading the team with 15 points, gave North the lead 39-38 with just over six minutes left in the game and the teams continued to trade shots and the lead after that.
Cass Tech led 51-50 with two minutes to go, but Josh Sherrill for North brought his team back in front 52-51 as the clock ticked down to the final minute. Cass Tech once again jumped ahead 53-52, but North was able to get the ball and a timeout to set up a play with just 16 seconds remaining.
The final play of the game saw the ball eventually end up in the hands of senior center Williams, who made a move through the paint and around a Cass Tech defender to put a layup off the glass and into the net with two seconds remaining. The Technicians were unable to execute a last-second miracle and North was victorious and moved on to the district final.
The district championship game Friday, Feb. 28, pitted North against King. The Norsemen were hoping to use the momentum from the exciting win over Cass Tech to propel them deeper in the postseason, but it was not meant to be as the Crusaders won 55-38.
King jumped out to a lead early and built a wide enough gap to make things difficult for the Norsemen the rest of the night. The Crusaders led 13-3 at the end of the first quarter and held a nine-point 23-14 lead going into halftime.
The deficit for the Norsemen grew even bigger in the second half as King led by 19 at the end of the third quarter. North was unable to make a final push and the Crusaders cruised to win by 17 and claim the district title.
North’s season ended with last Friday’s loss with the team having a record of 20-5. While the Norsemen hoped for a deeper run in the playoffs, the season still had plenty of successes to celebrate, including the program’s first outright MAC division championship since 2008-09.
This season, North was led largely by a group of veteran seniors who had grown within the program together for years. This winter was a culmination of their efforts and their coaches know what they helped the program achieve this season will be remembered for some time.
“They realized that they needed to sacrifice for each other,” Johnson said. “... We knew going into the year how special of a season it could be if they were willing to sacrifice for each other and play together. It was just a really together group who got better and got more confidence over time.”



South senior Adam Czarnik steps up to the free throw line in the Blue Devils’ district semifinal game against Detroit Martin Luther King Jr. Czarnik finished with 13 points in the loss for South.

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Grosse Pointe News

4D | SPORTS

SWIM:

Continued from page 1D

fifth in the 100 backstroke.

The Blue Devils’ divers also had strong showings in the competition. Senior Troy Richard finished in first place with teammate and fellow senior Ethan Hurford right behind in second. Junior Myles Meldrum from South also finished in the top five in fourth place.

Grosse Pointe North finished the meet in fifth place overall. One of the top performances for the Norsemen came from sophomore Brady Winbiger, who finished

second in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:48.64.

Winbiger also took second place in the 500 freestyle at 4:51.78. He was part of the 200 medley relay team, along with James Gusmano, Tyler Collins and Thomas Kezhaya, that finished in fourth place. Winbiger, Paul Stephens, Thierry Hardie and James Jewell also earned fourth place in the 400 freestyle relay.

Gusmano, Kezhaya, Stephens and Collins finished in third place in the 200 freestyle relay. Gusmano also took fourth in the 100 fly and was fifth in the 50 free-

style. Stephens’ best individual finish came in the form of sixth place in the 100 freestyle. Collins’ top individual finish was second place in the 100 fly.

South hosted the Last Chance Meet Tuesday, March 4, after press time, as a chance for swimmers to compete for state cut times before the finals. Divers from South and North are set to compete in the MHSAA Division 2 diving regionals Thursday, March 6, hosted by Birmingham Seaholm. The MHSAA Division 2 swim and dive state finals begin Friday, March 14, hosted at Oakland University.



PHOTO BY HEIDI BRYAN

South’s 400 freestyle relay team of Duncan Richards, Thomas Brieden, Owen Mulcahy and Brady Bond earned third place at the MAC Red Championships on Saturday, March 1.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

Welsh scored one of Liggett’s three goals in the game.

While the playoff run may have been stopped short of a title for the Knights, Welsh will be back next season to try again and finish her high school hockey career the way she started as a freshman: as a champion. The fact she stepped in right away years ago and helped the Knights to a state title and her improvements since then gives everyone in the Knights program confidence Welsh can help lead the team to bigger and better things.

“(Avery) stepped in as a freshman, played meaningful minutes immediately and made big contributions at that time,” Liggett girls hockey head coach Jason Chmiel said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

Welsh ended the 2024-25 season tied for the team lead in points with 34 and led the Knights in assists with 16.

“Since then, she has been given more and more responsibilities.

She currently centers our first line and our first power play unit. With

that comes face off and increased defensive responsibilities that are

crucial to team success.” For now, Welsh’s focus will shift to the offsea-

son. There will not be much rest for her, as she plans to play spring hockey with her St. Clair Shores Saints club team. She also will once again play for Liggett’s varsity girls lacrosse team in the spring and plans to continue playing varsity field hockey for the Knights in the fall.

While the ice hockey season coming to an end is bittersweet, Welsh has her mind set on using all of her offseason experiences to come back stronger and ready for her senior campaign on the ice once next winter begins.

“These sports that I play have taught me the importance of putting 110 percent effort into anything that I do,” Welsh said. “(They have) taught me a level of discipline that I carry with me beyond just the ice and the field since they’ve helped me grow as a person.”

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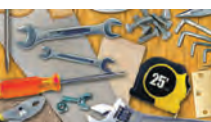
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South moves on, North and Liggett eliminated in girls hockey playoffs

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Last week marked the beginning of playoff action for the varsity girls hockey season. Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School began their journeys through the postseason in the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League playoffs. After the opening rounds, the Blue Devils found themselves advancing to the state semifinals, while the Norsemen and Knights saw their seasons end.

Grosse Pointe South
The Blue Devils, who were regular-season MGHSHL Group A champions, received a bye through the opening round of the playoffs and advanced directly to the quarterfinals. On Saturday, March 1, South faced off against Bloomfield-Birmingham in its first game of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH ATHLETICS

Defending Division 1 state champion Grosse Pointe South advanced to the semifinals of the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League playoffs with a win over Bloomfield-Birmingham on Saturday, March 1.

playoffs and the defending state champion moved one step closer to defending that title with a 2-0 win. Audrey Reynolds and Molly Reynolds scored the two goals for South in last Saturday's playoff win. Senior goaltender Rosie Smith earned another shutout, her 10th of the season, to help the Blue Devils move on to

the state semifinals. South played in the semifinals after press time Wednesday, March 5, against Orchard Lake St. Mary's. The MGHSHL Division 1 state championship game is scheduled at 5 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton. **Grosse Pointe North** The Norsemen ended

the regular season as the champions of Group B in the MGHSHL. North opened the playoffs Thursday, Feb. 27, with a first-round game against Livonia United that ended with the Norsemen on top 6-2. Ava Villani scored twice for the Norsemen in the win last Thursday. Josie Cueter, Leah Burney, Kate Kasuba and

Leanna Phillips all found the back of the net as well. The win advanced North to the next round of the playoffs, where the team faced Mid-Michigan Alliance on Saturday, March 1. The Norsemen's playoff run came to an end with a 6-0 loss to end the season. "I'm so proud of all of them," North girls hockey coach Taylor Shaheen said about the team at the end of the season. "Each player has grown. This team has improved tremendously this season. From the brand-new players to the seasoned veterans, everyone adjusted, put in the effort and worked incredibly hard. This has truly been one of the best teams I've had the privilege of coaching."

University Liggett
The Knights began the playoffs Saturday, March 1, with a quarterfinal matchup against Orchard Lake St. Mary's. Liggett

was unable to advance in the postseason as the Knights fell to St. Mary's 5-3. The Knights did jump out to a 3-1 lead in the game. Stella Smiatacz, Avery Welsh and Maggie Weiss were the three goal scorers who helped the Knights build a lead into the third period. However, three goals in just a couple of minutes were all St. Mary's needed in the third period to pull ahead and eventually get the win. "The season didn't end the way we had hoped it would," Liggett girls hockey coach Jason Chmiel said. "... The girls' work ethic, dedication to one another and their resiliency isn't always reflected by the final score of one game. ... I'm proud of them, as are their school, peers, parents, families and community. It was an honor to work with them and help prepare them for the next chapter of their lives."

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it's games, meets or matches, high school winter sports in the Pointes are in full swing and the Grosse Pointe News is here to bring you all the varsity action. Some of the week's biggest hits and highlights from include:

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Grosse Pointe North girls varsity basketball started its playoff run with a victory in the first round of the Division 1 district tournament on Monday, March 3. The Norsemen earned a dominant 61-21 win over Detroit Western International to move on to the district semifinals. North faced Detroit Cass Tech in the district semifinals after press time Wednesday, March 5.

Grosse Pointe South received a first-round bye in the district tournament. The Blue Devils took on Detroit Martin Luther King Jr. Wednesday, March 5, after press time in the district semifinals. The district championship game is scheduled for Friday, March 7, at 7 p.m. hosted by Detroit Martin Luther King Jr.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA



PHOTO COURTESY OF DETROIT YACHT CLUB

DYC KICKS OFF 101ST YEAR OF SWIMMING

Swimmers from the Detroit Yacht Club began the club's 101st year of competition on Saturday, March 1. One of the oldest competitive swimming clubs in the country, the Detroit Yacht Club has been swimming out of the four-lane, 100,000 gallon pool since 1922.

City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan

2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The 2025 March Board of Review will convene in the City Hall at 17147 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

The meeting is scheduled as follows:

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
March 17, 2025 @ 1:00 PM

APPEAL HEARINGS
March 17, 2025 @ 1:30 PM to 9:00 PM
March 18, 2025 @ 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointment only. **COMPLETED 2025 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY**, and must be submitted to the Assessor's Office, prior to your appointment. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal before the Board of Review is Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer and done by a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner and it must be submitted to the Board of Review on the form prescribed by the assessor's office. Written petitions must be received by the end of day Tuesday, March 18, 2025 to be reviewed by the Board. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (313) 885-5800.

GPN: 02/27/25, 03/06/25, 03/13/5

City of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK 2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Grosse Pointe Park will be conducting the 2025 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Hall at 15115 East Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

Organizational Meeting
March 11, 2025 1:00 PM

Appeal Hearings
March 11, 2025 1:30 PM to 9:00 PM
March 25, 2025 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. In person hearings are by appointment only and write in petitions will be accepted. **COMPLETED 2025 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS (L-4035 FORMS) ARE NECESSARY**, and must be filled out entirely prior to your appointment or petition drop off. The deadline for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal before the Board of Review is by Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by a taxpayer representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner and it must be submitted to the Board of Review on the form prescribed by the assessor's office. Written petitions must be received by the Assessor's office end of day Tuesday, March 25, 2025 to be reviewed by the Board. **Postmarks are not accepted.**

More information on Board of Review dates and times of the meetings will be posted on the city website.

If All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (313) 822-6200

GPN: 2/27/25, 3/6/25